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Rutskoy Appointment as 'Chairman' of Government Said Imminent

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy "is just five minutes away from becoming chairman of the government," reports ITAR-TASS, citing its "24" newspaper. "The decree about his appointment is already prepared." In addition, Arkadiy Volskiy, currently chairman of the Russian Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, will reportedly become "first vice premier."

Yeltsin Decree Nearly Doubles Oil Prices

Russian President Yeltsin has signed a decree "On Regulating Prices of Energy Sources," which will cause the "prices of energy sources" to "approximately double in the next few days," according to government economic adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev, reports NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In line with this decree "coal prices will rise by approximately 30 percent; electricity and gas prices will not be increasing at all." Ulyukayev believes "the impact of the increased prices of energy sources on the average level of prices is being greatly exaggerated, and following today's correction all commodities will register only a 20 to 25 percent price increase." He added that reserves of 54.9 million tonnes of fuel have been set aside for consumers for the winter. Ulyukayev said additional subsidies will be considered for farmers "in connection with the increase in gasoline prices." ITAR-TASS adds that the decree "envisages a 50 percent rise in the pay for electricity and heating, running water and canalisation, liquefied gas for household needs, kerosene, fuel for the population."

Government Proposes 1992 Budget of R3 Trillion, Deficit of R1 Trillion

The Russian Government "has outlined measures for the implementation of the 1992 budget and for drawing up the 1993 budget," ITAR-TASS reports. The decision it adopted speaks of "implementing the 1992 republican budget for expenditure of a sum of over 3.3 trillion rubles [R]." It adds that "total revenue will be about R2.3 trillion and the maximum deficit will be about R0.95 trillion."

Russia, Moldova Conclude Talks on 14th Army Status

"The second round of Russian-Moldovan talks on the status of the 14th Russian Army and on the schedule of its withdrawal from Moldova ended in Chisinau" on 17 September, according to INTERFAX. The talks, held behind closed doors, "did not bring any results except the decision to move a pontoon regiment from Bendery to Penza." Petru Luchinskiy, head of the Moldovan delegation, expressed his view that "one cannot expect the withdrawal of the 14th Army to take place in the near future, because the issue has to be studied very thoroughly," ITAR-TASS adds. INTERFAX reports that "the talks will be resumed in a month, but neither the date nor the place has been chosen yet."

Russia Denies Recruiting Mercenaries to Fight in Azerbaijan Conflict

An Azerbaijan Defense Ministry spokesman, speaking at a Baku news conference on 17 September, voiced his "concern over repeated cases of participation by soldiers and officers of the Russian Army, recruited by the neighboring republic, in military actions in the mountainous part of Karabakh," reports Moscow television. The allegation that Russia is recruiting mercenaries to fight in Azerbaijan was refuted by a Russian Defense Ministry official, who stated that he had "no information about participation in combat operations by any servicemen in those units and formations that are under the jurisdiction of Russia stationed on the territory of Azerbaijan or Armenia. They could be discharged soldiers who have left the service and served in precisely those subunits to which they are now referring."

Alma-Ata Talks on Karabakh End in Failure

15 Sep Meeting Reaches No Solution

NC1609211292 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The meeting between the plenipotentiary representatives of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents with the mediation of the representatives of Kazakhstan's president in Alma-Ata has ended.

The Armenian President's Press Service informed ARMENPRES that the meeting produced no positive results because of Azerbaijan's [words indistinct]. The Azerbaijani representatives said that they were not authorized to negotiate. The Azerbaijani side proposed a meeting between Presidents Abulfaz Elchibey, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, and Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The Armenian representatives replied that such a meeting would be technically possible but would produce positive results only if Azerbaijan gives a positive reply to Mario Rafaelli's calls and implements all the provisions of Alma-Ata memorandum and the Idzhevanskiy protocol.

The Azerbaijani side said that the Idzhevanskiy protocol is a mere declaration of intent and does not bind Azerbaijan whatsoever.

Despite President Nazarbayev's determined efforts, the neighboring republic has chosen a nonconstructive course.

After the meeting, the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations issued separate statements enumerating their views on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

Kazakh President Proposes New Talks

NC1609152292 Baku TURAN in English 1226 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Baku 16 Sept (TURAN)—TURAN AGENCY has been credibly informed by a private source that yesterday afternoon President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev telephoned both Armenian and Azeri presidents.

Nazarbayev offered both presidents to carry out a three-sided peace talks for Nagorno-Karabakh in Alma-Ata in the nearest future.

The same source says Abulfaz Elchibey gave his consent in principal to leave for Alma-Ata, but L. Ter-Petrosyan has refused the offer, saying he is not prepared for such talks at present.

Nazarbayev's consultations with both presidents are under way.

17 Sep Meeting Cancelled

LD1709115892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Ravshan Dzhamshidov, press secretary at Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry, has stated that the meeting planned for today in Alma-Ata between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan will not take place, owing to the fault of the Armenian side. Questions connected with preparations for a meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan were supposed to be considered in Kazakhstan's capital. President Elchibey gave his agreement to take part in it. Meanwhile, the Armenian president's press service has stated that the tripartite meeting in Alma-Ata is possible in principle—however, only after Azerbaijan halts military actions.

Azeri Official Rejects Accusations

NC1709170292 Baku TURAN in English 1305 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baku 17 Sept (TURAN)—Press-Secretary of the Azeri Foreign Ministry Roushan Drhamshidov classified as groundless Armenian statements, charging Azerbaijan with un-constructive stand, taken during the Alma-Ata peaceful talks.

The Alma-Ata talks of the representatives of the both presidents was aimed at elaborating a working ceasefire control mechanism and carrying out a spade-work for arrangement of the summit of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenian with President Nazarbayev as a mediator.

Azerbaijan made its point clear during the Alma-Ata peaceful talks, pressing that the sides should abide with the UN and CSCE principles on non-interference in the home affairs of any state and inviolability of the present-day borders.

But Armenia has refused to assume these international standards as a basis and goes on with breaking the terms of the Alma-Ata memorandum and Idrhevanskiy protocol, outlined the press-secretary.

As TURAN agency has already informed, on September 15 President L. Ter-Petrosyan had refused to meet with President Elchibey in Alma-Ata with President N. Nazarbayev as a mediator, pleading his unpreparadness for the summit.

Azerbaijan: Armenia Not Prepared for Talks

NC1709190792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Speaking at a news conference he held after returning from Alma- Ata today, State Adviser Vefa Kulizade said the following: Armenia is not prepared to hold talks to peacefully resolve the Karabakh dispute. We do not believe that the talks [words indistinct].

Kulizade said that Azerbaijan wants to find a political way to end bloodshed and added that the republic is satisfied with the provisions of the declaration drawn up by Kazakhstan. He said that the provision, which calls for the withdrawal of the armed Armenian units from Karabakh within a specific timeframe, is quite clear, as in the case of the other provisions.

Azerbaijan Welcomes CSCE Initiative

OW1809103392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Yerevan has torpedoed the negotiating process, initiated by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan"—Azerbaijan's foreign policy adviser Vefa Kulizade declared at a news-conference in Baku on Thursday [17 September].

In his words, Armenia only tabled proposals to the draft of the Alma-Ata declaration on how to settle the Azeri-Armenian conflict, whereas Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan completed the drafts of that document. Mr. Kulizade emphasized that future meetings like the one in Alma-Ata "must be thoroughly prepared and could take place only if the parties agree to sign a joint document".

Concerning the CSCE conference under way in Prague, the adviser remarked that Azerbaijan "welcomed the CSCE initiatives and gave priority to that organization's efforts to settle the conflict with Armenia".

Leaders on Strategic Nuclear Forces Status

Yeltsin Aide on Russia's View

OW1709064992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0529 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Interview with Aleksandr Kotenko, head of the president's State Legal Department, by correspondent Marina Chernukha; from "Problems & Opinions"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent: Many experts believe that in Bishkek the status of the strategic nuclear forces will become a stumbling block once again. Three of the four states possessing nuclear weapons have different views on this problem. What is the essence of their disagreements?

Kotenkov: The Alma-Ata agreements, as you know, envisage the concentration of the strategic nuclear forces in the Russian Federation following their complete removal from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The document does not specify, however, how exactly the transfer and elimination of nuclear missiles will proceed. This explains why the states in question have different approaches to the problem.

Belarus, for instance, has agreed to have its strategic missiles removed from its territory. Incidentally, according to the Soviet-American agreement, missiles of this class shall not come under cuts. As Belarus has declared its nuclear-free status, it has put its nuclear missiles under Russia's jurisdiction, so now the strategic forces located in Belarus belong to Russia and will be gradually removed from Belarus. This is the essence of the so- called special position of Belarus. We welcome such an approach to the problem, given the nuclear-free status proclaimed by Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

The missiles located in Ukraine will be eliminated in accordance with the agreement on the strategic offensive weapons. Ukraine insists that these weapons be eliminated in its territory according to the fixed schedule. Another problem is that the procedure of eliminating the warheads has not been developed yet. Should these warheads be eliminated in Russia, or, as Ukraine insists, on Ukrainian territory, which is absolutely inconceivable? I think common sense will triumph and nuclear missiles will be removed from Ukraine to Russia.

The position of Kazakhstan has become more problematical lately, perhaps due to certain misunderstanding or haste in the moves made by both Kazakhstan and Russian leaders. Following the appointment of Russia's commander-in-chief for the strategic missiles, the leaders of Kazakhstan made a step of about the same nature, which instantly cast a doubt on Kazakhstan's nuclear-free status. Nazarbayev stated at the same time that he was ready to put Kazakhstan's strategic forces under Shaposhnikov's command in accordance with the Alma-Ata agreements.

I think, the problem should be approached from this particular angle. I am convinced that as far as the strategy and the strategic forces are concerned, we shall find a mutually acceptable solution based on the provisions of the Alma-Ata agreement, above all centralized control over the nuclear forces, preferably within the framework of the CIS chief command. However, we must not fail to determine to which states these forces will belong.

The nuclear-free status of the three states does not allow them to possess nuclear weapons. These weapons must belong to Russia because Russia bears the entire responsibility for them. However, as long as they are located in other states, control functions should be performed with the participation of the Joint Armed Forces.

If you remember, according to the Alma-Ata agreement, the right to decide whether or not to use nuclear weapons has been entrusted upon the president of the Russian Federation who will take such a decision by agreement with the presidents of the states in which nuclear weapons are located. Commander-in-Chief Shaposhnikov bears the entire responsibility for this decision because the Alma-Ata agreement puts nuclear missiles under his direct control. Now we should be looking for an interim solution.

Q: I understand, there is no need to have the CIS agreements on strategic forces cardinally amended.

A: I don't think there is any need to do so, although certain changes will have to be made. These agreements put the nuclear strategic forces under the CIS commander-in-chief's direct control, which lend the nuclear forces an extra-state status. Meanwhile, according to international norms, nuclear forces cannot have such a status. In view of this, they should be put under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

As to decision-making, to be more exact, the implementation of the Russian president's decisions on the use of nuclear weapons, as long as they are located in different states, it should become the responsibility of the Joint Armed Forces' commander-in-chief. So these forces will belong to Russia, while the Russian Federation's defense minister will exercise tactical control over them, maintain them and supply them with personnel.

The only thing he cannot do is to issue the order to use them, for this is the prerogative of the president and of the Joint Armed Forces' commander-in-chief. When all of the strategic forces are either moved over to Russia, or eliminated in the places of their dislocation, the Russian president will assume the decision-making functions and have his decisions implemented through bodies subordinated directly to him.

I think that the special position of Kazakhstan and Ukraine will make us seek a solution whereby the command concerning the use of nuclear forces during the transitional period will be issued by Commander-in-Chief Shaposhnikov. We need to achieve a compromise here. A tough stance assumed by any of the parties concerned may undermine our international prestige and lead the violations of international accords, above all the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Shaposhnikov on States' Positions

LD1609192992 Moscow Radio Moscow in French 1600 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Until now the future of the strategic nuclear weapons of the former USSR have been one of the focal points of interest of the international community. Our correspondent spoke about this question with Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the commander in chief of the CIS joint Armed Forces.

All the states of the CIS have said that they want to get rid of nuclear weapons, including the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, where these arms are located, said Marshal Shaposhnikov. Only the Russian federation will possess nuclear arms. These are political statements, but how are they going to be put into effect in concrete terms, asked our correpondent, as it is no secret to anyone that this is the subject of stormy debate?

With regard to these strategic forces, there are three possible approaches, said the commander in chief of the CIS joint Armed Forces. The Ukraine's position is the first one, that of Kazakhstan the second, and that of Belarus the third. Kazakhstan would like them to come under the responsibility of the joint armed forces command. Russia and Belarus are holding talks for the strategic nuclear arms sited in Belarusian territory to be placed under the jurisdiction of Russia. As for the Ukraine, said Marshal Shaposhnikov, it is insisting on administrative dependence of the strategic nuclear arms sited on its territory. That means that the officers and soldiers swear loyalty to the Ukraine, it also means the appointment of a command, funding and so on. To some extent this approach of the Ukraine is not based on the agreements concluded earlier within the framework of the CIS.

The task of the general command of the CIS joint Armed Forces and the representatives of the defense ministries of the states of the Community is to adapt all these approaches to the agreements reached by the former USSR and those concluded by the leaders of the CIS. At present we are in charge of the strategic nuclear forces of the former USSR in accordance with the agreements reached by the leaders of the CIS in Alma-Ata and Minsk, and at the moment there is no doubt that this mechanism works, said Marshal Shaposhnikov.

Central Banks Open Talks on Forming Ruble Zone

OW1709200592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During a two-day meeting which opened in Alma-Ata Thursday [17 September], representatives of the governments and central banks of the former Soviet republics will formulate the basic provisions of the former currency union—"ruble zone".

One of the managers from the National Bank of Kazakhstan told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the documents prepared at the meeting will most likely be submitted for review by the heads of states at the Bishkek summit in early October.

The representatives of 10 republics initially agreed to attend the meeting, including, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia, Lithuania, and Moldova. However, Aleksey Dudkin, deputy chairman of the Kazakh bank, said that Ukraine and Turkmenistan joined in the talks at the last minute. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Estonia, and Latvia are not participating in the meeting.

Managers from the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] said the bank will call for the creation of a single currency zone with the ruble as the main or reserve currency, if the nations decide not to form a banking union.

Deputy Chairman of the CBR Aleksandr Khandruyev told "IF" that the bank "advises setting up an inter-republic payment union, regardless of whether a banking union is organized". The leaders of Belarus and Kazakhstan said they plan to remain in the "ruble zone".

Baltics To Join European Council After Elections

OW1609224392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Only after the elections in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have finished can the same three states become members of the European Council, since the current state power structure was created during the old political situation. It is possible that Lithuania and Estonia will be permitted to join as early as February, 1993, and Latvia only after the elections which are due to take place in spring or autumn next year. This was revealed at a press conference by chairman of the Latvian Commission for Human Rights and National Questions Andrey Panteleyev. He was returning from the European Council Parliamentary Assembly Conference which took place from 10th-12th September.

Panteleyev remarked that this was the first time it had been acknowledged that the Baltic states would not simultaneously be accepted by the European Council because of the differing pace of their political development. Most advanced in this respect is Estonia, and "the possibility that Estonia may become a member of the Council this very autumn cannot be ruled out unless Russia tries to provoke a situation in Estonia similar to the one in Moldova." The Baltic states currently have special guest status in the European Council. Among other states, the same status is held by Russia, Albania, Romania, Slovenia and Croatia.

Baltics Welcome Lithuanian-Russian Troop Accord

OW1609224192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1811 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Council of the Baltic States issued in Tallinn today an appeal to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The document praises the Russian-Lithuanian treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Lithuanian territory. At the same time, the statement notes that until Russia signs similar agreements with Latvia and Estonia all CSCE member-states should focus on this problem as the main factor of security and stability in Europe.

The appeal expresses concern over "disrespect for human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities in the Russian Federation and in the countries where Russian troops are involved in military actions".

At a press conference after the meeting Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis stated that it is incorrect to call the Russian-Lithuanian agreement a separatist one. In this connection, Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs pointed out that the Baltic Community had not suffered from this treaty.

The participants in the press conference stressed that the goal of today's meeting was not so much to coordinate the policy at talks with Russia, as to exchange information on the course of these talks. They indicated that at the talks on the withdrawal of troops they will decisively oppose Russia's attempts to link this problem to any other questions.

Baltic Premiers Discuss Customs, Border Issues

WS1609130392 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1424 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 78]

[Text] 14 September 1992—The Prime Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia discussed the issues of visas, customs and borders policy. Asked by journalists if after the September 8 summit between Vytautas Landsbergis and Boris Yeltsin the approaches of the three Baltic States to the Eastern policy would not diverge, Prime Minister of Lithuania Aleksandras Abisala noted that this issue had been discussed but little at this meeting because the situation of the three countries and their approaches to the process of the pullout of the Russian troops diverge considerably.

Representatives of the Central Banks of Lithuania and Latvia concluded an agreement that both countries would conduct their mutual settlements mostly in the German marks. A similar agreement had been signed between Lithuania and Estonia some time prior to this meeting. In addition to that, the finance ministers of the three countries signed an agreement on non-commercial operations to the effect that from now on various scholarships, authors' emoluments, judicial penalties, insurance expenses as well as expenses connected with diplomatic and other activities will be paid in hard currency.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Sep

LD1809070592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0510 GMT 18 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a commentary of its correspondent on a briefing of Alexey Ulyukayev, adviser to the government, the topic of which was "fuel and energy supply during the forthcoming autumn and winter". The commentary is entitled "Russia getting prepared for winter by raising fuel prices". Ulyukaev said that prices of energy carriers would go up two-fold in the coming days. He described it as "correction", after which prices of all goods will grow by 20 to 25 per cent. The newspaper stresses that "it is not the liberalisation, but another administrative changing of prices."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes today without comments President Yeltsin's decree "on state regulation of prices of some types of energy resources".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that "leaders of the parliamentary bloc 'Russian Unity', which rallies the groups in the Russian parliament which are in opposition to the government, made public the 'agreement of left-wing and right-wing opposition' at a news conference on Thursday [17 September]." By all appearances, the coalition of communist and nationalistically-minded parties and movements, which is called in the document "united opposition", has finally taken shape, the newspaper stresses.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes in this connection that "representatives of the left-wing and right-wing opposition announced the beginning of the irreconcilable struggle for the resignation of the government". Their confidence in the early downfall of "Yeltsin's ruling team" is so great that Mikhail Astafiyev, leader of the constitutional democratic party, speaks about the creation of a "government of popular confidence" as a matter which cannot be delayed.

A group of Russian members of parliament strongly criticise the government's privatisation policy in an article, published by PRAVDA, which is entitled "vouchers are intended to dupe people". They analyse the "privatisation mechanism worked out by the government". The legislators are positive that "the 'book-keeping by double entry', suggested by the government and the evaluation of fixed assets of enterprises in pre-inflation prices will lead to overall muddle, in which most people will receive nothing at all."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports the beginning of the second round of Russian-Moldovan talks on the status and terms of withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova. It writes that "passions over the 14th Army do not subside." The newspaper calls attention to the proposal of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur that Russian officers could serve in the national Army of Moldova. The newspaper points out in this connection that observers regard Snegur's proposal as "another compromise of the Chisinau authorities in talks on the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester region."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that the second meeting of the tripartite group, which discussed the August 27 memorandum signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, which was held in Alma-Ata on September 14-15, brought no results. The sides were accusing each other of failing to observe ceasefire accords and could not reach agreement on any issue, the newspaper writes.

Aleksey Malashenko analyses in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA the development of the "Islamic idea in the CIS member states. The idea emerged in the political arena late in the 80s." "Although the processes developing in the Moslem regions of the CIS look similar, there is neither united Moslem movement on the territory of the former USSR, nor a hypothetical powerful alliance of Moslem states along Russia's southern borders. The integration potential of Islam turned out to be limited."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA continues to publish "interviews from behind bars". This time it carries an interview with Anatoliy Lukyanov, former chairman of the Soviet parliament now kept at the "sailor's repose" prison of Moscow. He shares his ideas of Russia's future and his own life. In the opinion of Lukyanov, "the president of the Russian Federation, acting within the limits of the prerogatives given to him by the constitution and the law, had no right whatsoever to ban the Soviet Communist Party."

Yeltsin, Kohl Discuss Boosting Economic Ties

LD1709191592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had a telephone conversation on Thursday [17 September] afternoon, Yeltsin's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov announced on Thursday. The two men discussed the financial and economic ties between Russia and Germany and the possibilities of adding impetus to these relations. Yeltsin and Kohl agreed that finance ministers of the two countries will meet in Moscow within the nearest two weeks to consider the entire spectrum of bilateral economic relations. Kohl assured Yeltsin that he will support the decision of the Paris Club to postpone Russian debt payments.

Kohl said he understood the motives behind Yeltsin's choice to reschedule his visit to Japan and said the step was prompted by unwillingness of one of the sides for a compromise. Reviewing the postwar borders may be very dangerous for the world stability, Kohl added.

Kohl confirmed his intention to come to Russia with an official visit in December this year.

TASS Reports Yeltsin To Visit Seoul 18-20 Nov

LD1809045692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0442 GMT 18 Sep 92

["Official Information"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] According to an agreement reached, Russian President Boris Yeltsin will pay an official visit to South Korea on November 18-20 at the invitation of South Korean President No Tae-u.

Kozyrev Supports Yugoslav Leader's Policies

LD1709170892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Vladimirovich Andrey Kozyrev by "observer" Viktor Levin; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Levin] What is the essence of the Yugoslav question being discussed at the UN General Assembly session?

[Kozyrev] There is still a sign reading SFRY at the United Nations, but the reality is that just like the former USSR, the SFRY no longer exists. In our case the answer was that the sign USSR was replaced with the sign Russia. And we did not have to join the United Nations again but acted as the USSR's successor both in the Security Council and the United Nations.

Naturally, the question arises, why can't the new Yugoslavia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, formed by the Serb and Montenegro republics, automatically take the seat of the former SFRY in the United Nations, as was done by Russia in relation to the USSR? Why should not all the other republics join as new members, just as our republics did? The difference lies above all in the fact that the international community was ready to recognize Russia as a state which succeeded the USSR, taking into account the wholly peaceful nature of our policy in relation above all to its former union republics, that is, new states. But the actual new states, if you can remember, in Alma-Ata, signed an appropriate statement at a summit about the fact that they recognize Russia as the state succeeding the USSR at the United Nations and the Security Council.

Thus, the view of the whole international community and the opinion of the republics, of all the former union republics, presently sovereign states, fully coincide. That is the basic difference between our case and what is now going on with the new Yugoslavia. The international community, something which is shown by the sanctions.... [changes thought] Effectively there are no states that directly support, so to speak, the former policy of the Belgrade leadership. In addition, all the remaining republics—because of the adventurist policy Belgrade pursued with its direct and armed confrontation, and which is continuing in Bosnia-Hercogovina—object categorically to recognizing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a successor state.

Under these conditions, we, China, and a number of other states advised our Belgrade colleagues and the Panic government, who have made a statement and a decision to distance themselves from the old policy, the aggressive policy, and have condemned the war, condemned the policy of purges, and recognized the independence and sovereignty of these republics formed on the territory of former Yugoslavia—as all of them were formed following a nationwide referendum—now the Panic government is ready to recognize the borders of these republics and their territorial integrity.

In other words, the Panic government has started down the path of realism and peace. We support the Panic government. We support its intentions and determination. We are trying to help him implement his programs. The main thing now is that these statements and this new policy declared by the Panic government must be implemented. As they are being implemented—and there are signs of this even now—we will of course first raise the question of gradually abolishing the sanctions. Second, the question can then be resolved of whether the new Yugoslavia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, can enter the United Nations as a new state.

Yesterday I met Panic in Moscow, and we had a very thorough talk. Taking into account the fact that he received the same advice in Beijing, he made a statement yesterday, a courageous statement, in my view, a statement which shows once more that he is a realistic politician, a politician who indeed takes care not of the ambitions of the old system and the old bureaucracy, the

party bureaucracy of Yugoslavia, Belgrade, but a politician who is indeed concerned about the national interests of his country. He said he will try to insist that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia approve the decision to apply to the United Nations. Yesterday we also stated that we will support this decision and that we will support this statement.

Kozyrev Previews 'Significant' UN Assembly

LD1809113892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is flying to New York to attend the latest session, the 47th, of the UN General Assembly. The minister gave an interview Thursday to a correspondent for ITAR-TASS and Mayak Radio. Our observer Viktor Levin reports:

[Levin] The current 47th session is noteworthy in many respects. It is being attended for the first time by an independent Russia and by the other independent states of the former USSR. The first question to Andrey Vladimirovich [Kozyrev] was about the features of the session.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] The session will be unusually significant, since it is the first session of the post-communist and post-confrontational period. Last year, there was still a devotion to the socialist option on the part of the former USSR, which may have cost it its life, so to speak. This year, it is a feature of the session that it will assemble for the first time in the conditions of the absence of confrontation between ideological systems—not only their drawing together or the removal of confrontation between those systems but simply its absence. That, of course, provides a unique opportunity for embarking on the formation of a world system—not a Pax Sovietica or a Pax Americana, not a Pax Europae or Asiae, but a more integrated world, the one that was actually envisioned when the United Nations was created but did not come into being because of the cold war. In other words, it is a session of unprecedented opportunities.

But, at the same time, there are no grounds for euphoria either, since a realistic assessment of what is happening indicates that there lies ahead a lengthy, and in many cases very difficult and excruciating, transitional period from that state to the present one. There will, all the same, be a natural transitional period, connected with overcoming the ailments inherited from totalitarianism and with overcoming the new threats that have arisen from the ruins of totalitarianism, so to speak. The main threat is, of course, aggressive nationalism.

In this respect, what the debut of those states that have come into being in place of the former socialist camp will be like really is of tremendous importance. Either these states will go on to realize the democratic potential that caused the socialist system to collapse and achieved a victory in the cold war—it was not a victory of one state over another; it was won by the democratic movement in the former Soviet Union itself, in Russia—or they will submit to a new plague—no longer the red communist ideology but the ideology of nationalism and xenophobia. [end recording]

Outlines Positions, Expectations

LD1809105192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Our observer Viktor Levin reports an interview given by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to a correspondent of ITAR-TASS and to Radio Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian:

[Levin] Journalists were interested in the question of what positions Russia intends to stand on. This is what Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev said:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] What is expected of Russia—and I think this is how we shall come out—first, reaffirmation of our adherence to the policy of reforms and the president's determination to continue this course of the government toward reforms in Russia (?at all costs) despite all the difficulties. But in this instance this is of global importance. And we shall reaffirm this decision.

Second, we are expected to make a contribution, as a major state and a great power, to the shaping of the agenda for an international community which is stated in Butrus-Ghali's report. I must say that our conversations here in Moscow and an analysis of that report have confirmed the fact that in many ways it has been shaped under the influence—and the secretary general does not conceal this, that is natural—shaped under the influence of those proposals which were put forward by President Yeltsin during his speech at the Security Council at top level and then in some of our additional ideas and proposals which have been sent to the United Nations (?in various forms) and influenced by that experience, peace-keeping experience, say, which has been built up within our territory, the territory of the CIS and the former union.

The secretary general highly appraised, in particular, our proposals on the Dniester region and on South Ossetia. At the time he was here, an agreement was concluded on Abkhazia. It is perfectly clear—and this is the firm belief of the UN leadership—that the whole of world experience shows that no other alternative exists in the difficult quest for peace. Everything else is (?purely) adventurism of a Yugoslav type.

That is why we are coming out with our ideas about the shaping of this new policy in the post-confrontational and post-socialist world in as specific a form as possible, directly relating to what the UN can and must do. For example, the UN must, it seems to me, take on part of the new forms of a movement to protect rights, new forms of activity in protecting rights. Whereas in the past activity in the protection of rights was mainly oriented toward protecting human rights against totalitarianism,

in particular our own Soviet system of wholesale violations of human rights, then today this movement must be turned against a new threat, against human rights violations on the basis of ethnic intolerance, in particular, persecution and infringement of the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking population on the territory of the former USSR. [end recording]

Kozyrev on Role, Objectives in UN/Part Two

OW1709165392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Second part and conclusion of "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Vyacheslav Terekhov; place, date not given, from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama]: A new reality has emerged: CIS countries at the U.N. In what manner does the Russian Foreign Ministry intend to cooperate with them in international affairs?

KOZYREV: I am very glad to note that the CIS is acquiring the contours of a normally functioning commonwealth. We suggested from the very beginning that meetings between its foreign ministers should include discussions of international issues, international not only in regard to CIS members but also in regard to foreign countries.

Participants in the latest meeting held in Minsk, for instance, exchanged views on the upcoming General Assembly session. I think this is very useful. This is a sign of maturity; CIS members have begun to realize that by tackling the problems of relations within the Commonwealth we learn to act on the world scene from coordinated, if not united, positions.

DP: Are there some positive examples of cooperation between the foreign ministries of CIS countries at the U.N.?

KOZYREV: Yes. At the U.N. we jointly decide certain issues connected with the granting of economic aid and scientific and technical support. The U.N. is not only a political rostrum; it's also a vast number of specialized organizations.

Very serious work takes place there, and we reached an agreement with the former Soviet republics at once. That was our initiative, and we have firmly followed it, to avoid trying to snatch pieces of humanitarian aid from each other, to behave with dignity and cooperate.

We proceed from the assumption that if Russia succeeds in carrying out its reforms, everyone, including East European nations, will benefit from this. We also believe that if some of those nations accomplish their tasks successfully, everyone will benefit from this, since we all are interconnected.

Our cooperation progresses, but it will be a new experience for the diplomats of many CIS countries, except Ukraine and Belarus, which have extensive diplomatic experience, including work at the U.N.

DP: Is there a difference in our and other CIS countries' approaches, for instance, to foreign policy toward Asia?

KOZYREV: There are some nuances. We respect their sovereignty and avoid embarrassing them.

They fear that Russia might try to keep them in tow by means of giving them organizational support. But we have no intention of doing so. Our goal is to help them follow independent policies.

In objective terms, our interests coincide in many respects, and when our partners stop fearing that they will be under dictate or used as pawns in Russia's foreign policy, they begin to realize that in fact we have much in common because of our economic, historic and cultural interdependence.

It was not accidental that four presidents issued a joint statement on Tajikistan. We are in close contact with all republics in Asia as regards the crisis in Tajikistan, and we do our best to take into account their attitudes, considering the complicated situation of our partners in Asia.

Some people behaving like a bull in a china shop think that it's politics; but this is only politicking. If you take into account what your friends in Asia tell you, this is a better policy.

India To Buy MiG-29's; Yeltsin Approves More Help

OW1709150892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] India will buy from Russia 30 MiG-29 fighter planes (24 combat planes and 6 training aircraft). As IF [INTERFAX] learned from Anatoliy Belosvet, senior designer of the Mikoyan design office, "the relevant contract might be signed during the Russian President's visit to India next January." A tentative agreement on this was reached in mid-September, when India's defence minister was on a visit in Moscow. According to the information available to IF, President B. Yeltsin has already signed a directive to outline the main directions for developing bilateral cooperation in the military field as well.

According to reliable sources, Russia intends to grant India credit in the amount of 830 million dollars to finance programs for the building of aircraft, ships, and tanks under agreements signed between the former USSR and India, and to buy special property. This includes 314 million dollars for India's Air Force. According to A. Belosvet, this amount is considerably less than the worth of the transaction, since the initial price of a MiG-29 makes up 25 million dollars.

Burbulis, Japan's Envoy Meet; No Date for Visit

LD1709163892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep—This afternoon Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary under the president of the Russian Federation, received Sumio Edamura, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan in Russia, in the Kremlin at the latter's request. During a 45-minute conversation there was discussion of problems of further relations between the two countries and also of questions regarding preparations for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. It was confirmed that joint work on preparing for this visit will be continued. "Both sides now have time to conduct fuller and more thorough work on plans connected with the mutual interests of the two countries," Gennadiy Burbulis told the Japanese ambassador.

Vyacheslav Nedoshivin, press secretary of Gennadiy Burbulis, who was present at the meeting, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "there was no discussion of new dates for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan" and "the question of a possible meeting between the Russian president and the Japanese prime minister in Okinawa was not raised."

Gazprom Signs Japan Production, Pipeline Deal

LD1709202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Sep—A major event in trade and economic relations between Russia and Japan, which recently have been perceptibly marking time, occurred today with the signing in Tokyo of a contract worth $700 million between the Russian state concern "Gazprom" and a consortium of Japanese companies. The deal was timed to coincide with President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. Despite the visit's postponement, however, and in spite of the absence of progress in settling the territorial problem, which Tokyo is trying to link to development of trade and economic cooperation with Moscow, the signing took place practically on schedule.

The Japanese partners are four metallurgical companies, including the leader in the field—the "Sinnittetsu" corporation—and nine commercial firms, headed by "Itotyu Siodzi." Following an interval of approximately a year, they will, at the start of the next year, begin deliveries to "Gazprom" of pipes and equipment to be used to develop gas deposits in Tyumen Oblast and to extract hydrogen sulfide in the area of Orenburg and Astrakhan, as well as to lay two gas pipelines from northern regions in Tyumen Oblast to the central regions of Russia and its western borders, through which the gas will be fed to Europe. An accord has been reached whereby 350,000 tonnes of large diameter pipes and seamless pipes as well as drilling equipment will be purchased for $300 million. The specific use of the remaining $400 million will be determined in the course of further talks.

"The state of affairs in Russia's engineering industry, the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas, is exceptionally important to the stability of Russia itself and the world economy alike," stated Minoru Murofusi, president of "Itotyu Siodzi," at the signing ceremony. He expressed the hope that the contract would facilitate an increase in gas extraction in Russia. However, naturally enough, the Japanese corporations were not just driven by their desire to help. Replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, Iosiro Sasaki, vice president of "Sinnittetsu," admitted that the deal was of course advantageous to the Japanese side too, especially if account is taken of the less propitious economic circumstances in Japan and of lower production levels in the steelmaking industry.

Russia's debts to the Japanese commercial companies, which have reached the sum of $1.36 billion, act as the main brake on the path of developing bilateral economic ties. However, the companies that signed the present contract essentially cannot lose, since the Japanese Government has agreed for the system of state insurance to apply to this deal, making resources available from the $2.5 billion aid package Tokyo promised the former USSR almost a year ago. The general outline is as follows: The producers of pipes and equipment are paid by their Japanese commercial firms which, in turn, use for this purpose the credits of the Export-Import Bank controlled by the Government of Japan. The main guarantee that the government will recover its money can be furnished by "Gazprom's" hard currency revenue—it supplies gas to 15 European countries and is able to keep 50 percent of its hard currency proceeds for itself.

Rem Vyakhirev, chairman of the board of "Gazprom," termed the contract that has been signed the first step of trust in the Russian partner as far as major business operations are concerned. At the same time he noted that he saw the deal not only as assistance to Russia, but also as normal practice which presupposes that orders will be placed with Japanese producers and suppliers. Vyakhirev emphasized that "Gazprom," which accounts for 90 percent of gas extraction in Russia, is certainly not a poor organization. Moreover, as distinct from numerous other Russian enterprises, the concern is not reducing, but increasing production, reckoning on increasing gas exports this year to 100 billion cubic meters and on increasing exports next year by a further 10 to 12 billion.

Business Meeting With Japan Opens in Vladivostok

OW1709143092 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0450 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Report by G. Medvedeva; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] This meeting is devoted to the further development of cooperation between businessmen of small and medium-sized enterprises of Japan and our region. The conference is being held at very high levels. Our side is represented by some of the top leaders of Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for Property], the Economy and Finance Ministry, and the Interior Ministry. The delegations are headed by Deputy Chairman Vadim Belov of the Russian Antimonopoly Committee, which set up this conference. Naturally, businessmen from all over the Far East region are among those present.

The Japanese delegation is headed by Mr. Shuichi Tanimura, president of Japan's Chamber of Trade and Commerce. There are also representatives of governmental and state bodies, members of associations of small and medium-sized businesses, and heads of many Japanese firms. One can say without exaggerating that this conference will be a landmark.

Representatives of Japanese business circles arrived here to study concrete possibilities for the development of mutually profitable cooperation and to offer assistance in developing natural resources and infrastructure and in converting defense enterprises.

The conference intends not only to discuss the entire spectrum of business ties between the Far East and Japan but also to create an international political center of small businesses in Vladivostok.

[Begin V.A. Martyanov, Economy Minstry section chief, recording] Such centers are being created in Russia, and their efficiency is beyond doubt. If our work here in Vladivostok is successful, it will contribute to the further growth of free enterprise in the region and the strengthening of appropriate relations with our neighbor, Japan.

I think that these relations must be channeled toward creating productive and direct contacts between Russian and Japanese businessmen. We must depart from the traditional practice of discussing these questions at the level of state officials and shift to direct contact between manufacturers of Russia and Japan. [end recording]

Spokesman Says No Official Delegation in Taiwan

OW1809111292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 18 Sep 92

["EXPRESS" report—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] No governmental delegation was sent to Taiwan from Russia, the Russian president's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview.

Commenting on the reports about the arrival of a Russian official delegation in Taiwan, Kostikov said that neither the president, nor the government have given any Russian citizens the right to hold official talks with the Taiwan authorities on behalf of Russia.

The arrival of a governmental delegation or the organization of official talks in Taiwan would go against Russia's position on the Taiwan problem and would contradict Boris Yeltsin's recent decree regulating Russia's relations with Taiwan.

Undoubtedly, Russia is interested in broadening economic, cultural, commercial and humanitarian relations with Taiwan, said Kostikov, but given Russia's position on China as an indivisible state, all of these relations have an unofficial status and will be maintained between individuals, companies and non-governmental delegations.

KURANTY Examines New Stage in ROK Ties

MK1709085992 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 16 Sep 92 p 3

[Article by Mikhail Shchipanov under the "Our Commentaries" rubric: "Seoul Closer to Beijing"]

[Text] All the indications are that Moscow has decided not to "break it off" with South Korea too; the latter has quite unexpectedly suffered as a result of Russian-Japanese territorial problems. But President Yeltsin will pay his visit to Seoul all the same. And whereas the first variant of the South Korea trip was tied to the Russian-Japanese summit, a new major political scenario has Seoul virtually paving the presidential path to Beijing. Naturally such "foreign policy geometry" on Yeltsin's part is generating a great deal of speculation about Moscow's intentions to isolate the uncompromising Japan in the region as much as it can. Particularly since both China and South Korea have their own "northern territories" in their relations with the Japanese, both in political and economic terms. But most probably the South Koreans themselves are hoping to obtain the advantageous role of mediator in the Moscow-Beijing-Seoul triangle. And in this connection the recent diplomatic rapprochement between South Korea and China, which made Taiwan so indignant and upset, is placing the Seoul regime in a particularly advantageous position. In fact, given the active guiding and leading force of South Korea, we could be talking about the implementation of multilateral high-technology projects or the creation of major regional economic cooperation zones.

Furthermore, Yeltsin can clearly no longer hope for any "Korean golden rain." Seoul is reacting particularly sensitively to Moscow's inability to pay for the credits it has already received, and so we can scarcely hope for new subsidies. It is to be expected that attention will focus precisely on plans for regional comprehensive cooperation: Every country could participate in the implementation of these, making its own personal contribution to the common cause. True, there remains the hope of direct investments by Korean firms in the Russian economy, but Seoul too will evidently be on the alert, responding keenly to the zigzags of Moscow's

relations with the IMF and other prestigious international financial organizations whose expert assessments in many ways determine the pressure of the "investment flow" in the veins of our exhausted economy.

If we are to believe the statement made by Vice Premier M. Poltoranin, another important subtlety in President Yeltsin's upcoming trip to South Korea could be a meeting with the Japanese prime minister. Admittedly, this information has not yet been officially confirmed, but bearing in mind the president's tendency to make unexpected decisions in the narrow circle of the "kitchen cabinet," you can assume that this option will be discussed by Kozyrev and Watanabe when the ministers meet within the walls of the United Nations. If indeed such a meeting were to take place on Okinawa, an island returned to Japan by the Americans, it would be of a deeply symbolic nature.

Burbulis, French Envoy Discuss Ties, Reforms

PM1709102592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Sep 92 p 1

[Report from the ITAR-TASS and INTERFAX column under the "Government: Day by Day" rubric: "Gennadiy Burbulis: 'Reforms in Russia Are Not Only a Matter for Russians Themselves But Also a Matter on a European and World Scale'"]

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary under the Russian Federation president, has received in the Kremlin Pierre Marel, French ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia, at the latter's request.

Problems of political and economic relations between the two countries and of the development of the reforms in Russia and their connection with the all-European process were discussed in the course of a thorough 30-minute conversation. Gennadiy Burbulis emphasized in this connection that "the reforms in Russia are not only a matter for Russians themselves but also a matter on a European and world scale, because the geopolitical situation in the world has changed radically since the breakup of the USSR." The state secretary also declared that "today nothing can stop Russia on the path of reform," and he advocated the expediency of "fruitful cooperation" between Western countries and the Russian Federation.

Officials Hold Kaliningrad Talks With Poland

PM1709104192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 92 First Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Stroganov under the "Russia-Poland" rubric: "Community of Interests"]

[Text] "Complete mutual understanding"—these words could often be heard from leaders of working groups at the Russian-Polish "roundtable" that has just finished in Kaliningrad. To a considerable extent they also reflected the spirit of an event designed to flesh out the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Poland on friendly and good-neighborly cooperation, signed in Moscow 22 May 1992, and also to prepare the foundation for a meeting between the heads of government of the two states.

Both Russian Government Deputy Chairman A. Shokhin and Polish Vice Premier H. Goryszewski spoke highly of their talks, and the fruitful work done by experts demonstrated the two states' community of interests. The preparation of agreements on mutual support and protection of investments, cross-border cooperation, and cooperation between St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast and Polish voivodships is now at the completed stage. But the main thing is the achievement of mutual understanding on many issues regarding cooperation between Kaliningrad Oblast and the northeastern voivodships of Poland.

Polish interest in this Russian oblast is no less than that being shown by the Germans—their capital is invested about equally in joint ventures here. And judging by the names of the working groups at the "roundtable," this interest is becoming all-embracing: Cooperation in the spheres of transportation, the power industry, nature, preservation of culture and education, sport, trade, and finance.

New border crossings were decided on during the "roundtable," and it is planned to set up two road crossing points in the near future. There are plans to open an air link and increase the number of railroad and road communications.

It is not just the closeness of cultures and democratic transformations that are dictating the desire to cooperate felt by Poland and Russia. We need our neighbor's rich experience in the sphere of private farming and attracting investments. And Poland is drawn by our mighty economic potential.

The topic of the army arose separately at the "roundtable." The large number of troops stationed on the territory of Kaliningrad Oblast forced the Russian side on more than one occasion to issue appropriate statements, for example to V. Landsbergis, the head of the Lithuanian parliament. A. Shokhin issued an exhaustive reply on this matter, brushing aside all rumors:

"When the problems of demilitarizing the Baltic region are discussed, Russia is sympathetic. If the countries involved want this process to proceed quickly, they must understand that it must be paid for in order to avoid the emergence of new sociopolitical problems in Russia. There are also purely technical problems. Where are these troops to be withdrawn to? It is clear that some naval bases will be transferred to Kaliningrad Oblast. Ground troops are being withdrawn to Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod, and Kaliningrad Oblasts. This is not a special task designed to strengthen Kaliningrad Oblast's military potential, it is the task of rapidly withdrawing troops from the Baltic states and Poland. We cannot keep to the strict timetable and bring about a tenfold

reduction in the number of troops in Poland by 15 November this year without using Kaliningrad Oblast as a transit region for redeploying our armed forces. The withdrawal of these 'transit' units from Kaliningrad Oblast will take place as and when oblasts in our rear proper are ready to receive them."

Yeltsin Asks Azerbaijan To Pardon Officer

LD1809102692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] According to a report from the ANI agency, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message to Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey. The message appeals for a pardon for Russian Army Lieutenant Yevgeniy Lukin who was sentenced to death on 31 August this year for killing three Azerbaijani youths near the command post of Baku Military College.

Ministers Assess Kazakhstan Economic Cooperation

LD1809090792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Kazakhstan and Russia have recently been cooperating very actively, particularly in the economic sphere. Well, both states are being encouraged to do this by the slump in industry. Economic talks between these countries in Moscow are dedicated to the search for joint solutions. [video shows meeting in progress; Russian Economy Minister A.A. Nechayev, others talking]

[Correspondent I. Pankov] Which vitally important branches of the economy, in the first instance, need state support? The governments of both Russia and Kazakhstan have some theoretical concept of this. However, implementation of their plans comes up against their financial resources. Against this background, talks are under way between economic delegations from the two states. Both sides have confirmed their aspirations for mutually advantageous cooperation. At the same time it was stressed that economic links between Russia and Kazakhstan are a step ahead of the cooperation between all of the CIS countries.

[Begin recording] [Pankov] One of the main issues for Russia at the present time is the matter of bread grain. There are direct relations with Kazakhstan on this matter. It seems the problems are already resolved.

[Nechayev] I would not single out any individual problem here, like bread grain or oil. It is very important for us now to agree on the principles behind our relations. For this reason, I think that some of the goods that we supply to one another—including, in the case in hand, the supply of bread grain from Kazakhstan, and we will try to conclude discussions on an intergovernmental agreement once we have done some work on the mechanisms for the implementation of such an agreement—some of the goods, and we are without a doubt interested in Kazakhstan's bread grain, will I hope be purchased directly through direct economic links.

[Pankov] What does the Kazakh delegation single out as the priorities in the talks?

[T. Kabdrakhmanov, Kazakhstan minister of economy] We are raising the issue of developing and implementing joint investment programs. These are in the fuel and power complex, in the metallurgical branches of industry, and in a number of other such key branches of industry, in the heavy and basic branches of industry of the national economy. [end recording]

[Pankov] As far as the sale of bread grain to Russia is concerned, Tleukhan Kabdrakhmanov stressed that Kazakhstan is a reliable trade partner.

Political Issues

Rutskoy Appointment as 'Chairman' Said Imminent

LD1709171592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy is "just five minutes away" from becoming chairman of the government. The decree on his appointment is already prepared.

This sensational news has made the first page of the current issue of the ITAR-TASS international newspaper "24". The newspaper also alleges that Arkadiy Volskiy, who at the moment has the post of chairman of the Russian Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, will become first vice premier.

At the next session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, one can expect calls for the resignation of the present government. The replacement of the present chairman of the Russian Central Bank is also not excluded.

The "24" correspondent notes that the sensational information received by the newspaper might reflect the desire of the certain circles to bring about a clash between the president and the vice president.

Agriculture Minister May Become Vice Premier

OW1809102592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0954 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information from well-placed sources in the RF [Russian Federation] Agriculture Ministry, President Boris Yeltsin has been requested to appoint the current Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun vice-premier in charge of the agroindustrial complex [AIC].

Observers regard as yet another candidate Vitaliy Yermolenko, the head of the centre for land and agroindustrial reform initiated by the vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy. Mr. Yermolenko is in the rank of minister.

The intention to institute the office of vice-premier responsible for AIC was officially aired as far back as several months ago, however, the idea has never materialized. It was Mr. Rutskoy who proposed forming within the government the agrarian complex to include the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Processing Industry Committee, the Water Resources Committee, the Forestry Committee, the Fisheries Committee, and other departments.

Observers believe that if Mr. Khlystun is appointed vice-premier, his current first deputy Vladimir Sherbak may take over from him as Minister of Agriculture.

Former KGB Chief Given Commercial Security Post

LD1709212392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2028 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—Former head of Soviet KGB espionage network Leonid Shebarshin has been appointed head of a share holding company, Moscow's "BUSINESS AND BANKS" weekly reported on Thursday [17 September]. According to the weekly, Shebarshin sees his main task in the "creation of conditions which will make it possible to avert the possible threat to Russian and foreign businesses and to prevent actions which may impact our customers' reputation and/or their commercial secrets."

Shebarshin said he recruited only professionals in his team and their customers already include several major Russian banks.

Decree Modifies Appointment of Administrators

PM1709141392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Decree of the Russian Federation President "On Amending 25 November 1991 Decree No 239 of the RSFSR President 'On the Procedure for Appointing Administration Heads'" issued in the Kremlin on 10 September]

[Text] 1. Points 2 and 5 of the 25 November 1991 decree No 239 of the RSFSR president "On the Procedure for Appointing Administration Heads" are to be amended to read as follows:

"2. The appointment of heads of kray and oblast center administrations is to be carried out by the heads of the administrations of the corresponding krays and oblasts in consultation with the relevant soviets—of the kray and oblast centers."

"5. The consultation procedure laid down by this decree is to be used when appointing the heads of administrations of krays and oblasts, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs, except for those appointed before this decree came into effect. The Russian Federation president will submit candidates for consideration."

2. The heads of city—kray and oblast center—administrations, including those previously appointed by the Russian Federation president, are accountable to the heads of the corresponding kray and oblast administrations.

3. This decree comes into effect the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Issued in] The Kremlin, Moscow, 10 September 1992, No 1070

Russian Unity Bloc Urges Government Resignation

LD1709181392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The opposition parliamentary bloc the "Russian Unity" is insisting on the convocation of the extraordinary congress of people's deputies to resolve the issue on the resignation of the present government, which "is violating the Constitution, carrying out an anti-national policy and leading the country to a collapse," according to the "agreement between the left-wing and right-wing opposition." the document was read out today by People's Deputy Mikhail Astafyev, leader of the Constitutional Democratic Party at a news conference organized by representatives of the "Russian Unity" bloc.

"After the resignation of Yeltsin's ruling upper circles it is necessary to form a coalition government of people's confidence which will begin to implement anti-crisis measures," the agreement says.

"The present government has no social basis: It is not supported by industrialists, and strikes by teachers, doctors and peasants show that their patience is almost exhausted," Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Council of People's Patriotic Forces of Russia, commented. Continuing this thought and summing up the events of the day of peasants' protest on September 15, Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the faction the "Agrarian Union", stressed that participants of pickets satisfied themselves as to the deafness of the government to their demands and intend to resort to more resolute actions: non- deliveries of farm produce and a food blockade, and, probably, the creation of the agrarian party."

At a final stage of the news conference, Gennadiy Saenko, one of the leaders of the faction the "Communists of Russia", emphasised that President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan did not take place "under the pressure of the opposition and the public opinion." Saenko said that deputies of the bloc are preparing an address to the Constitutional Court in connection with illegal actions of the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which, at the request of the authorities of the Adygei region, did not convene an extraordinary session of the parliament at the time of the events in Abkhazia. Besides, at the next session of the Supreme Soviet, the "Russian Unity" bloc intends to raise a question about the resignation of Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov who, according to Gennadiy Saenko, ignores the opposition's demand to carry out an examination of the aggravated state of health of the majority of the arrested members of the State Emergency Committee.

DPR's Roytman Explains Departure From Council

MK1509132092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 2

[T.V. report: "Ilya Roytman Denial"]

[Text] In a letter to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, Ilya Roytman, deputy chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR], informs us that his departure from the Political Council of the DPR (see NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No. 174) was not accompanied by a statement on his disagreement with the line pursued by Nikolay Travkin. As far as concerns the essence of measures to intensify the DPR's internal centralization, which alter the volume of powers of the Political Council and the Executive Committee, these measures must be legitimated by decisions of the next DPR congress on the party's rules. In his opinion, "the DPR has been forced to make these changes in connection with the action of the antidemocratic laws prohibiting the leaders of political parties from occupying senior posts in the executive organs of power. No such restrictions exist in any civilized country."

Official on Plans for Ethnic German Statehood

LD1609173392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 15 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—The Russian leadership has chosen the only real way—that is the stage-by-stage restoration of Russian Germans' statehood, on which an agreement has been achieved with the German side and Russian Germans, Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Committee on Nationalities' Affairs Vladimir Seryakov told ITAR-TASS.

It is the question of restoration of the autonomy of Russian Germans in the Volga region, but not on that very territory where it was before the 1941 liquidation by the Stalin regime, he noted.

The stage-by-stage restoration implies the formation of ethnic village councils, ethnic districts in a number of regions and a region so that in future they serve as a basis for the establishment of the Volga republic.

A referendum has been held on territory of the future district in the Saratov region, and the local population voted for its creation in October, 1992.

The Volgograd regional authorities also intend to solve the issue this year after holding a referendum on creation of an ethnic region. The referendum is scheduled for November, 1992.

Germany is ready to render a considerably financial and technical assistance only after the Russian leadership takes a political decision and provides for the actual existence of the ethnic districts and the region.

Seryakov said all documents on creation of the Russian Germans' fund to be formed before the end of this September have been prepared. It is also planned to open a Russian-German bank with branches in Saratov and Volgograd.

Government Ordinance on Customs Border Decree

OW1809040592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 17 Sep 92

[From the "Laws & Regulations" section of "Trade & Investment"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Pursuant to presidential decree dated as of July 18 1992 "On urgent measures to organize customs control in the Russian Federation," the government has issued an ordinance stipulating that beginning on October 1, Russia's trade and economic relations with the six former Soviet republics—Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and the Baltics—which have not signed the Agreement on the Principles of Customs Policy in March this year will be based on principles applied to third countries.

The document says that a customs border is to be established along Russia's state border with these countries, and crossing points are to be built on the border, including the necessary infrastructure—communications equipment, customs houses, warehouses. The crossing points are to be properly manned and guarded. Experts at Russia's State Customs Committee estimate that establishing the customs border will take years and hundreds of billions of rubles to complete.

Thus far, a protocol on establishing 35 customs checkpoints has been signed with the Ukraine. An agreement has also been signed giving Russia the right to use the Oktyabrsk port facility in the Ukraine's Nikolaevsk merchant seaport for deliveries of military hardware to third countries.

Talks will shortly be held with Belarus on closing its border with Lithuania and Latvia. Otherwise the Baltics will be able to continue to take raw materials out of Russia without proper controls.

Russian customs officials say that Georgia is debating the possibility to accede to the Agreement on the Principles of Customs Policy.

When the customs border is in place, "the enormous market which is so attractive for Western businessmen will begin to crumble, and the last economic links will be severed," says chairman of Russia's Customs Committee, Mr. Anatoliy Kruglov.

He believes that as long as links among producers in the various ex-USSR republics are not utterly disrupted, and as long as there are a common currency, a single customs legislation and a common customs tariff with respect to third countries, and internal trade may be carried out without duties, there is "a unique opportunity" to create an economic union in place of the USSR.

Nuclear Issues

Report Outlines Plan for Nuclear Power Industry

LD1809110492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Pomanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—The development of nuclear power engineering in Russia will pass most likely in two stages, according to the basic principle of the conception of this branch's development worked out in the Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering.

The first stage (1992-1997) is considered as that of "renovation", which envisages modernization of nuclear power capacities together with improved safety measures and a slight growth of nuclear power-station capacities at the expense of the construction work already started. At this stage it is planned to work out and build leading nuclear power units of a new generation.

The second stage (2000-2010) will be characterized by the growth of capacities and a change-over to nuclear power-station units of new generations with the safety level and economic indices ensuring the stable development of the nuclear power engineering in the future.

Experts realize that the further development of the nuclear power engineering is impossible without restoring public confidence in it. Therefore, the priority task is to ensure and prove the possibility of safe functioning of nuclear power-stations and plants on the basis of an objective analysis of the structure and the degree of real danger of concrete elements of the nuclear power complex.

The legal basis and principles of public relations in the use of atomic energy will be determined by a law of the Russian Federation a draft of which is already prepared and in the near future will be submitted for consideration of the parliament.

Details of Nuclear Bomber Crash 20 Years Ago

LD1809105892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin]

[Text] Chita (Trans-Baykal), 18 Sep (TASS)—A military aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons crashed in eastern Siberia about 20 years ago. This sensational report was carried today in the local NARODNAYA GAZETA newspaper.

According to the newspaper the accident occurred not far from the village of Tsagan-Ola in the Aginskiy Buryatskiy national okrug in the Trans-Baykal region. At the site of the accident the military carried out radioactive decontamination and other measures envisioned for

the elimination of the consequences of nuclear contamination of an area, NARODNAYA GAZETA reports. But seven local inhabitants got to the site of the accident before that. They all soon died.

A representative of the command of the Trans-Baykal military district was not immediately able to confirm or deny the NARODNAYA GAZETA report.

Economic Issues

Government Outlines Budget; Deficit Forecast

LD1809111692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0944 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government has outlined measures for the implementation of the 1992 budget and for drawing up the 1993 budget. The decision that it has adopted, aimed at implementing the law on the Russian budgetary system, speaks of implementing the 1992 republican budget for expenditure of a sum of over 3.3 trillion rubles [R]. The total revenue will be about R2.3 trillion and the maximum deficit will be about R0.95 trillion.

Another government decision—"On Elaborating the Budgetary System of the Russian Federation for 1993"—instructs the Ministry of Finances to lead and coordinate work on compiling the republican and regional budgets and preparing the budget message for 1993 to the president of the country. This document should be presented for discussion by the Russian Government by 20 October.

Yeltsin Decree Nearly Doubles Oil Prices

LD1709191192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1841 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Prices of oil, oil products and gas condensate will almost double from September 18. The decree "On the State Regulation of Prices of Some Kinds of Energy Sources" signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [17 September] stipulates normative procedure of fixing prices. This means that it will be unprofitable for oil and oil products producers to raise prices: the higher the prices, the higher the taxes and other deductions.

Under the decree, there will be no deductions to the price regulation fund of the Russian Finance Ministry if the price is under 4,000 roubles per tonne. With the price of over 4,000 roubles per tonne of oil, including gas condensate, the deductions will be increasing progressively.

"The maximum level of profitableness of 50 per cent to the production costs is fixed for an enterprise if the price (without deductions to the price regulation fund and excise) is over 4,000 roubles per tonne of oil, including gas condensate", the presidential decree says.

The decree also fixes 30-per cent increases to the present wholesale prices of coal, shale, products of coal enreachment and briquettes.

Under the decree, the government is instructed, in connection with the price increases on energy sources, to fix the procedure of granting subsidies for the housing and communal economy, transport services, the manufacture of basic agricultural products, as well as for financial support during the sale of petrol and liquefied gas for the filling of automobiles for separate categories of invalids.

Neither the decree nor the government's resolution "On the State Regulation of Prices of Energy Sources and Other Kinds of Products and Services", signed by Yegor Gaydar on Thursday, say anything about the amounts of price increases on petrol and diesel fuel.

The supplement to the presidential decree gives maximum coefficients of the increases of prices and tariffs for some kinds of products and services to state-regulated prices and tariffs that operated before September 10, 1992. The maximum coefficient of 1.5 is set on the transportation of passengers and luggage by rail (except for suburban traffic), sea and river transport, on kerosene, coal, firewood, peat, fuel for stove heating and simular kinds of fuel, thermal energy for heating and hot water supply, liquefied gas for household needs, electricity for communal and everyday needs. The coefficient of 3 is fixed for the transportation of passengers and luggage by air transport (except for the transportation by local air-routes).

Yeltsin Spokesman Explains Decree

OW1709194992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree "On the state regulation of prices for various kinds of energy resources." The Russian President's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told INTERFAX that the decree calls for measures to defend public interests and guarantee that industry function reliably under conditions of growing prices for oil and other energy products.

As the Russian Government's press center reported, the outermost price limit on crude oil has been cancelled, but at the same time price growth has been limited to outside profit levels (50% of the production cost for oil prices over 4,000 rubles per ton). In addition to this, an excise tax shall be introduced which will be differentiated according to the geological drilling conditions for oil and gas condensate.

Sales of petroleum products to consumers, including the public, will be done at industrial prices with a trade supplement of no more than 2%.

When free passenger travel rates are introduced January 1st 1993 there are plans for a system of special rates and compensations for air travel by the underprivileged and workers in the Far North and other places similarly far from the center.

The outer profit margins when producing all kinds of petroleum products shall be set at 10-20% of the cost of the product an average.

The decree is in Russia's economic interests when supplying energy products to CIS countries. Foreign trade prices will be determined according to intergovernmental agreements. When such agreements have not been made, prices for oil and other energy products will be oriented on world agreements.

Decree's Promulgation Imminent

MK1809102492 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 1

[Yelena Tregubova report under "Government" rubric: "Russia Prepares for Winter by Raising Fuel Prices"]

[Text] Prices of energy sources will approximately double in the next few days. This figure was cited by government economic adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev at yesterday's briefing on "preparations for ensuring fuel and energy supplies in the fall-winter period," which was the main issue at the latest government session.

It is not a question here of liberalization but of another controlled change in rates. This is also indicated by the title of the relevant presidential decree—"On Regulating Prices of Energy Sources"—which, according to Ulyukayev, will be signed and "promulgated" "any day now." In line with this decree coal prices will rise by approximately 30 percent; electricty and gas prices will not be increasing at all.

As the economic adviser believes, the impact of the increased prices of energy sources on the average level of prices is being greatly exaggerated, and following today's correction all commodities will register only a 20 to 25-percent price increase. This is no soaring increase, nothing traumatic will happen, he assured us.

These changes will not influence the preparations for winter inasmuch as reserves have already been established, Ulyukayev declared, and he said that 54.9 million tonnes of fuel have already been set aside for the consumer (this is even 1.3 million tonnes more than at the same time last year), with the figure for coal standing at 47.7 million tonnes (1.5 million tonnes more than the 1991 figure). Reserves of fuel oil—if the speaker is to be believed—are also considerably greater than last year's.

Ulyukayev shared yet another piece of good news with the journalists: In comparison with previous years the heat-supply system—the pipelines, that is—has been better prepared for winter. Evidently it was this last fact that convinced Ulyukayev that "the level of strike activity in the fall-winter period will be low."

Moreover, as Gaydar's assistant believes, such a quantity of oil, fuel oil, and coal has been procured that it "will permit the government to negotiate with potential strikers more successfully." In his words, last year it was "the extremely tight situation with the coke supply" that forced the government to make constant concessions to the strikers.

As for the promised protests by private farmers, Ulyukayev promised on the government's behalf to consider additional subsidies for them in connection with the increase in gasoline prices. "Besides, there are fewer private farmers among the protesters than anyone else, the majority are kolkhoz and sovkhoz chairmen," he remarked.

Concluding the news conference by departing from the theme of preparations for winter, Ulyukayev asked the journalists not to call the relations between the government and the leadership of the Central Bank a "power struggle." It is more a "struggle for right," he suggested, at the same time assuring his audience that at the latest government session the position of Gerashchenko, who was present, was almost indistinguishable from that of Gaydar. The government also understood the necessity of the Central Bank's latest actions, but henceforth rigid credit and financial restrictions will be established, and "any deviations here will be impossible," he declared.

Official Commentary on Price Rises

LD1709211492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2043 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The Russian Government's press bureau on Thursday [17 September] evening gave ITAR-TASS the following official commentary on Boris Yeltsin's decree on price increases on oil and oil products:

"Attaching much importance to the work of the oil industry and the ensurance of the national economy's needs in fuel, and seeking to enhance the effectiveness of its use, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed the decree 'on the state regulation of prices of some kinds of energy sources'.

Under the decree, then new procedure of the regulation of prices of oil, including gas condensate and oil products, is introduced. The limit on oil prices is lifted, but price increases are restricted by the maximum level of profitableness (50 per cent of production costs with the oil price of over 4,000 roubles per tonne). The maximum level of profitableness is also fixed for the pricing of oil products.

In addition, excise is introduced under the Russian law 'On Natural Resources'. The Russian Government is

instructed to apply differentiated excise with taking into account geological conditions of oil and gas condensate extraction.

The new system of pricing of oil and oil products has a long-term nature and is to ensure a transfer from the administrative price regulation to the normative pricing. Prices will rise with the increase of costs, but price rises will be gradual, without leaps, and this will decrease the effect of the cost of energy sources on the overall dynamics of prices in the national economy.

In order to arrest price rises on food products, the Russian Government is instructed to be increasing subsidies for agriculture with the growth of prices of oil, so as partially to compensate for the growth of the cost of diesel fuel.

Under the tariff agreement envisaging gradual increase of wages in the coal industry, wholesale prices of coal, shale, products of coal enrichment and briquettes will be increased up to 30 per cent. Subsidising of the coal industry will be continued under the law 'On the Budget System of the Russian Federation for 1992'.

The decree envisages a 50 per cent rise in the pay for electricity and heating, running water and canalisation, liquefied gas for households needs, kerosene, fuel for the population. As the above-mentioned growth of prices and tariffs for the population covers only partially expenditures for these purposes, the housing and communal economy will continue to be subsidised from the budget.

Passenger transport fares for rail, sea and river transport will also be increased by 50 per cent. The level of the existing passenger fares by suburban railway transport for 1992 will remain unchanged".

Government Moves To Ensure Winter Energy Supply

OW1709155592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice-Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the amount of fuel reserved for supplying electric power plants and communal services exceeds last year's level, and expressed confidence that in the winter of 1992-93 the economic branches will be properly supplied with energy and fuel. He told the government on Thursday [17 September], however, that in 1992 energy is being supplied to enterprises amid "continuing economic recession and rupture of economic links".

Chernomyrdin said that the reserve of fuel which consumers have now exceeds last year's level of 53.6 million tons and amounts to 54.9 million tons.

The reserve of coal (as of October 1) amounts to 47.7 million tons (against 46.2 in 1991) and that of furnace fuel—to 11.5 million tons (against 11.5 million tons in 1991). To ensure uninterrupted supplies of fuel and energy in the fourth quarter of the year, the oil production will be brought to 88.7 million tons and gas production—to 167.4 billion cubic meters.

He noted, however, that coal reserves to be used for communal services and to be sold to individual users are created too slowly (18 percent down from last's year's index).

The government backed measures to ensure uninterrupted supplies of the economic branches with fuel and electric energy in the autumn and winter of 1992-93. A committee, led by Chernomyrdin, will be set up to coordinate this work.

Rutskoy Drafts Decree on Exploiting Gas, Oil

OW1609143092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to "IF" [INTERFAX], the preparation of a draft decree of the Russian President on regulating of gas and oil deposits' exploitation conducted under the leadership of Aleksander Rutskoy has been completed. This measure is aimed at prevention of squandering of natural resources. For example, about 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas burns annually in torches on the territories of the Tyumen province and the Yamalo-Nenetskiy national district.

In addition, the vice president intends to pledge Vladimir Ispravnikov, a chairman of the supreme economic council, to verify the situation with oil export. Making one of his official statements, Rutskoy said that 16 million tons of export oil allegedly evaporated and "it is impossible to find any ends". As a result the country experiences deficit in 1 million tons of oil.

Gaydar Commissions Analysis of Oil Enterprises

OW1709213192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1654 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Chairman of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar commissioned Vice Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to conduct a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of oil sales abroad and of oil excavation enterprises' spending of allotted currency funds. This was reported to INTERFAX by a well-informed source participating in the Russian Government session in Moscow Thursday [17 September].

It is expected that upon the results of the analysis a decision will be made regarding the creation of a centralized fund for the accumulation of currency earnings of Russian oil excavation enterprises. The source believes that the notion to create such a fund arose long ago in government circles, and the preparation of materials "which could compromise oil excavation enterprises" will become the basis for the fund's formation.

At present quotas on the export of oil have been assigned to oil excavation enterprises.

Oil Industry Straining Despite Price Hike

OW1709163792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The new fuel price rises announced by the Russian Government will in no way lessen strain in the national oil industry, said general director of the Sakhalinmorneftegaz amalgamation Anatoliy Chernykh in an interview for INTERFAX. In his opinion, the proposed fuel price rise to the level of 3,600-4,200 rubles a ton of oil will not align the position of oil producers in relation to the other branches of the republic's oil industry. Should this sum also include the excess tax, currently comprising nearly 700 rubles per ton of oil, the price rise will not stop the drop.

Head of the price department of Sakhalin administration, Fedor Khramtsov, maintains that the fuels price rise will touch off the general price hike to about 30 percent.

In commenting on the anticipated fuel price rise, representatives of the Sakhalin region "Aeroflot" agency inform that as a transportation center they are already suffering colossal losses. In the first half year of 1992, Sakhalin aviators were supposed to receive 110 bn [billion] rubles in terms of subsidies, whereas in reality they received only 20 bn rubles.

As compares the analogical period of 1991, the volume of air shipments in the region decreased by 18 percent. The new price rise will further aggravate the situation.

Economics Ministry Medium-Term Plan Criticized

PM1709125592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

["Expert Analysis" by Aleksandr Velichenkov: "When We Write 'Reform Program,' We Mean 'Development Directives'"]

[Text] The Ministry of Economics has sent a document with the eye-catching title "On the Blueprint for Structural Policy for 1993 and the Medium Term" to the Russian Government. It is noteworthy that this document appeared in the wake of the Russian Federation Government's publication of the "Program for Extending Economic Reform," and the draft of it should be a continuation and development of the "program."

The link between these these documents is clear, just as it is clear how the ideas of the "program" are turning into "blueprints" and the customary "directives for development of the national economy" that are so dear to our hearts.

If you leave out of the text the last section about foreign economic policy and foreign investments, which has clearly been prepared by the Committee for Foreign Investments, 80 percent of the remaining material in the "blueprint" is traditional text from the sector departments of the former USSR State Planning Committee, is competent, professional, and gives the necessary figures from the budget relating to various sectors' required subsidies and investments for 1993, but expressed in 1991 prices that the government will have to multiply about 30 times.

The only exception is the section devoted to conversion of defense sectors of industry. The importance of the problems is not artificially inflated, although it is clear how complex they are. There is a normal analysis, there is a strong argument that "the state merely creates the economic preconditions necessary for the normal operation of the enterprises being converted," and the rest is the concerns of the enterprises themselves.

But this cannot change the overall picture—we are faced with a draft plan for the Russian Federation national economy for 1993 prepared within the adopted deadline, on time. By November it will be finalized, and by December the "Federal Program for Structural Rebuilding," as it will be called by then, will be approved. Nor are we misled by the opening sections of the document dealing with "Aims and Priorities" and macroeconomics. Okay, "the establishment of an effective, competing (and preferably competitive—Author's Note), high-technology, and mobile market economy" may also figure among these aims. But the authors' aspirations are revealed on the page before the above quotation. There the argument is developed that new entrepreneurial structures need "active regulatory patronage." But entrepreneurial circles know very well what this state patronage entails.

Here is the new face of our government—it intends to implement structural rebuilding of the economy "in conditions of a slump in industrial production and investment activity and with the inevitable retention of relatively high rates of inflation." Which means that the rosy period of economic daydreaming aloud has come to an end. Does the Ministry of Economics no longer intend to fight inflation and the slump in production?

The government's position is changing so quickly—too quickly even—that it is impossible not to remember the remarks made by the speaker of the Russian Federation parliament (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 23 July 1992). At the time these remarks clearly sounded extreme, but now it is hard to disagree with them: "Bureaucracy has crawled into the corridors of government; it is bureaucracy that is calling the shots, not the members of the government. And this is the same bureaucracy that called the shots for decades in the central departments of the former Union."

And what have we not seen? We have not seen any admission of mistakes that are already obvious to everybody. Unless these are analyzed and the causes eliminated, undesirable economic processes could recur and multiply. And this applies primarily to the problems of nonpayments and inflation. You get the impression that in our government the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. The Ministry of Economics is responsible merely for goods and services, while inflation and nonpayments are the purview of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Russia. The measures relating to nonpayments that are currently being adopted in the Central Bank are the work of a fire brigade where an electrician should have been called in. Another spiral of inflation will again devalue enterprises' circulating capital, and the nonpayments situation will start over again. However, inflation is caused more by cash which is not returned to the banks but goes into high-speed commercial circulation. This circulation gives rise to profit, added value, and wages, but without any payment of taxes, and the government is for some reason stubbornly ignoring this entire shady circulation, in which 400-500 billion rubles [R] are involved.

Any programs for deepening the reforms and any blueprints for structural policy can be drawn up, but why is no attention paid to real life in Russia and countries close to home within the ruble zone? Despite the fact that processes are under way in these places that cannot fail to cause alarm. Every sovereign state except Belarus considers it an honor to pick sovereign Russia's pocket and slip either tens (like Chechniya) or hundreds (like Ukraine) of billions of rubles in credit emission into financial circulation. Georgia, which is not a member of the CIS, is contriving to obtain R22 billion at the Central Bank of Russia.

It seems the government believes that our taxpayers, who are the ones paying for "the guy" who works in cash circulation, must also pay for other people's wars! Ukraine is attempting to push R5 billion which it produced itself onto the Moscow interbank foreign currency exchange in order to net for itself more than $20 million earned by Russian exporters. And esteemed acting Premier Ye. Gaydar is yet again widely announcing that there will be no monetary reform in Russia.

An extremely important section of the economic reform—privatization—is missing in the Ministry of Economics plans for 1993; a change in property relations is of no interest to the Ministry (this is the concern of the Ministry of Justice, if you please). Privatization is totally excluded from the priorities of "structural rebuilding."

One final point, which we have not seen before. Similar USSR State Planning Committee documents always contained a detailed analysis of the eternal problem of any economy—the ratio between consumption and accumulation. Many people have memories of group A and group B industry. Unfortunately it has to be admitted that even this extremely important stratum of economic analysis is missing. Scrappy sector estimates in no way present an integral picture of Russia's national economy. The question arises—do the Ministry of Economics and the Russian Federation Government actually possess this integral picture? And does the Russian Federation Government have a realistic and not a futurological blueprint for getting us out of the crisis?

Management Official on Privatization, Investment

OW1809042092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 17 Sep 92

[From the "Point of View" section of "Trade & Investment"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Oleg Kachanov, deputy chairman of the federal State Property Management Committee, says the pace of privatization in Russia has accelerated, but foreign investors do not take an active part in it.

7.2% OF RUSSIA'S ENTERPRISES PRIVATIZED

According to data of the State Property Management Committee, 16,359 enterprises in Russia out of a total of 226,657 had been privatized by September. Applications for privatizations had been filed by another 60,085 enterprises, of which 35,000 are being implemented. The total value of assets of privatized enterprises is Rb27 bn [billion], and Rb14,302 m [million] has accrued to the federal budget in privatization proceeds.

Of the enterprises thus far privatized, 34.7% have been incorporated, 32.8% leased out (with subsequent buy-out options), 21.6% auctioned off, and 10.9% sold off through commercial tenders.

SMALL-SCALE PRIVATIZATION

The so-called "small-scale" privatization has proceeded at the fastest pace. Out of a total of 58,174 stores, 6,500 have been privatized (and applications for privatizing another 14,418 of them have been submitted). In the public catering sector, 1,600 businesses out of a total of 27,424 have been transferred to private hands, and 3,800 applications have been filed. Figures for the services sector are: 4,300 enterprises privatized out of 25,806, and 7,300 applications received.

In Russia's farming sector, 300 businesses have been privatized, and another 1,152 have launched privatization proceedings. Figures for other sectors are: construction—839 and 2,200; food industry—382 and 1,184; light industry—253 and 546; retail trade—6,500 and 14,418.

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION GAZ

One of Russia's large industrial enterprises getting ready for privatization is the production association Gorky Automobile Plant [GAZ]—one of the largest automobile producers in the country—which is headquartered in Nizhniy Novgorod.

So as not to sever production links, a joint stock company will be established which would comprise both GAZ itself and a number of other enterprises which supply 80% of their output to it.

LOW ACTIVITY OF FOREIGN INVESTORS

Commenting on the figures cited above, Mr. Kachanov said the privatization process in Russia has accelerated sharply because its mechanisms are now functioning better and employees have overcome their apprehension with respect to it.

At the same time, foreign investors are "excessively cautious" about investing in Russia's private sector, Mr. Kachanov complained. The only exception is a Western company (which Mr Kachanov refused to identify) which has created a gold producing firm in Siberia out of a local enterprise.

Among the reasons behind the caution, Mr. Kachanov cited political instability, lack of firm guarantees that investments can be returned, unreliable communications, shoddy roads and generally poorly developed infrastructure, as well as a lack of financial and other market-oriented structures. Foreign investors are also frightened off by the technological backwardness of Russian enterprises.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

The greatest challenge, in Mr. Kachanov's view, is privatizing defence enterpises. Decision to privatize them, as well as any other entities, is taken by a deputy prime minister upon the recommendation of the State Property Management Committee and the appropriate ministry. Decisions on privatizations are taken within a month of applications.

Revenue From Various Taxes Examined

PM1509085592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "Taxes Have 'Lost Weight' But Become More Numerous"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Main Tax Service has summed up some results of tax practice this year.

Something like a "tax desert" in the recent past, Russia is gradually settling down. About 40 types of taxes are harvested on its territory today—not yet a proper garden (developed systems number up to 100 types of taxes) but already something like a small garden. But from the viewpoint of businessmen of the old and new waves our tax burden is immoderately heavy, although, according to experts' calculations, the proportion of the total sum of taxes in the national income has declined from 41.3 percent in 1990 to 28.4 percent in the first six months of this year. I. Lazarev, the chief of the country's tax service, urges us to have a critical attitude toward these figures since available figures for the national income produced are not entirely convincing and in addition world practice calculates taxes as a proportion not of the national revenue but of the GNP, whose outlines in our country are still vague.

What the tax service is certain of is the absolute figures for revenue into the Russian Federation budget. In the first seven months of this year 1,218 billion rubles [R] were received. That is one third less than planned.

Despite the growing number of tax payments, the bulk of revenue (nearly 94 percent) was provided by four types of taxes: the tax on profit—45 percent of total revenue; the value-added tax—33 percent; while the excise duty provided slightly over 5 percent and income tax 10.6 percent.

The sum that enterprises and organizations paid in the form of taxes on their profits increased tenfold this year, but not because of an increase in the taxation rate—it remains on average 32 percent of profit—but exclusively because of the increase in prices. And their increase not only compensated for the overall reduction of 13.5 percent in production volumes but also made it possible to overfulfill the plan for collections under this state revenue heading. But this tax was the only "trail blazer" in the tax system, the majority of the others lagged behind. That applies in particular to value-added tax, of which only 57 percent of the sum included in the budget revenue heading was successfully collected. The Main Tax Service explains this by the fact that far more is produced than is sold. According to Russian tax service figures the discrepancy between production volumes and sales volumes has reached an average of 45 percent. That is, nearly every other unit of output is not sold and goes to the depot.

It is true that we do not know what proportion of output has gotten stuck because of its quality and what proportion because of the lack of money among consumers, that is because of what is customarily called the crisis of nonpayments. Main tax service experts believe that budget arrears because of enterprises' mutual indebtedness comprise R135 billion over the first six months of the year. But it is not only enterprises' lack of money that is leading to a reduction of revenue. Even those who have a profit are in no hurry to pay taxes. Igor Lazerev cited the following example. Over the first three months of the year "Uralmash" produced output worth R1.5 billion and sold output worth R700 million, but it paid just R20 million in taxes or approximately 10 times less than it should have. It is to be supposed that the difference went to pay wages and on other needs of its own.

Despite the fact that income tax ranks third in terms of the sum of revenue—R93 billion over the first six months of the year—in the opinion of the main tax service chief it would be a sin to regard it as in any way heavy. Thanks to the increase in the size of wages exempt from taxation and to the introduction of a number of benefits, the proportion of income tax in the wages fund has declined from 12 percent last year to 8 percent.

But in addition to official benefits there are other benefits, those that enterprises, businessmen, and even citizens without any business set for themselves, that is, they do not pay, and that is all. What is the real income of the numerous commercial stores and their owners, of unlicensed street traders and currency changers? It is hardly likely that anyone can give an accurate answer: State stores try to sell at least some of their goods under the counter and in the majority of commercial sales points there are no cash tills at all. How much is thus concealed from taxation? A plan is now being developed for the introduction of tills, without which salesmen will lose their license to trade. But when and how this plan will be implemented is hard to say.

Many people, by renting out apartments, receive a quite respectable income, particularly if the lodger pays in hard currency, and in large cities there are already quite a few who do. Someone works as a carrier, someone repairs apartments or tunes pianos, but almost none of them pays taxes from their income. To avoid taxes or to reduce their sum as much as possible is en entirely normal desire which is not only characteristic of our own embryonic market economy. But there are few places where there are still such extensive opportunities to do so.

It is true that within the tax service, which now numbers about 80,000 people, a subdivision of tax investigation is being formed, which is something like a special department. And in the two months of its existence, it has found and returned to the budget R45 million on which tax was being avoided. But whether this service will succeed in making people love taxes is so far an open question.

Military & Security Issues

Aerospace, Defense Departments To Meet in Kaluga

OW1709174692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has been informed by the Kaluga regional administration that a conference of leaders of the aerospace and defence departments has been planned for 25th-26th September in Kaluga. It is to be attended by directors of the Scientific Production Group "Yuzhnaya", "Energiya", "Buryan", and the group's head designers, along with Russian Vice-Premier Georgiy Khizha. The conference is to discuss the financial and social problems which affect the industry today.

A major exhibition of up to date aerospace technology and consumer goods manufactured by the defence industries will open to coincide with the conference.

Increase in Defense Orders Viewed

PM1609160192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Article by Vladimir Gavrilenko: "Defense Order for 1993 Increased"]

[Text] It was by no means fortuitous that Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the government, mounting the platform of the Cheboksary conference, made a historical digression into the state of our economy in the seventies and eighties. It turns out that during those years it was close to the Western economy in terms of structure. But after 1988 this similarity began to decline drastically.

To effect a radical change to this situation what is needed is structural perestroyka of the economy, whose foundations, Gaydar said, are now being laid.

The basis is the selection of programs supported by the state. One of them, on which Yegor Gaydar dwelled in particular, is the conversion of defense production.

The first to sound the alarm were the defense industry leaders at their May meeting with the Russian president. The decline of military orders has entailed a chain reaction of circumstances which clearly attest to the fact that the country's defense complex could be acquiring a steady and progressive tendency to decay. Russia, with its desire to occupy a fitting place in the world community, cannot, of course, allow itself to destroy a flourishing sector of the economy whose scientific, production, and organizational potential remain remarkably helpful in overcoming the general crisis. At the same meeting President Boris Yeltsin promised his interlocutors that "defense will not be forgotten."

And on Thursday, 11 September, at a closed session of the collegium of the Russian Federation Government, in the presence of the leaders of the country's defense complex, it was decided to approve the defense order for 1993, which exceeds the 1992 defense order. In Cheboksary Yegor Gaydar specified that the increase is 10 percent. And he explained that this step is caused by the government's desire to maintain the military-industrial complex' unique scientific and technical potential at a high level and to ensure that the overall decline in production in Russian industry and the financial difficulties enterprises are experiencing affect that sector to a lesser degree. This albeit insignificant increase in military orders will enable the defense industry to implement conversion measures more easily and to switch more painlessly to the production of civilian output.

The increase in military orders has given rise to a wave of various opinions. From approbatory to opinions of the opposite kind. The government has already made it unambiguously clear to the public—to preserve the defense industry's unique potential which in the very near future will do a good "civilian" turn. Yegor Gaydar added in Cheboksary that the excess of oversimplified decisions in conversion is just as burdensome and unjustified as the slow development of conversion itself. So that an increase in the military orders is not the renunciation of conversion but its deepening at the expense of the military-industrial complex' own potential.

Deputy Security Minister on 'Reorientation'

OW1709070692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0531 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, deputy security minister, by correspondent Renat Abdullin; place and date not given; from the "18 September Problems & Opinions" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent: At present much is spoken about a reorientation of security bodies to secure the interests of a personality. What is concretely meant by this?

Stepashin: An answer may be presented in two different ways. Firstly, one cannot subdivide the interests of a society and a personality. When we speak about the interests of Russia we mean every concrete citizen. The better lives the country the more effectively laws and reforms will be implemented. [sentence as received] The better we ourselves shall live. On the other hand, the fight with gangsterism becomes more and more vital nowadays. This problem is seriously affecting us. An uncontrolled proliferation of weapons after collapse of the Soviet Armed Forces, emergence of mafia groups predominantly from the Caucasus in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other cities have led to such a situation that it is dangerous to go out in the evening. That is why the struggle with terrorism and security of the rights of our citizens become more and more actual. In the result a unit for struggle with terrorism was formed in the Security Ministry.

And, secondly, we must assure security of rights of a personality from an intrusion of security bodies into his private life.

Q: How effectively do the security services of the Commonwealth cooperate? Is it necessary to form a coalition body of parliamentary committees exerting control over the problems of security and defense in the framework of the CIS?

A: We have signed agreements on cooperation and interaction of the Russian Security Ministry and appropriate special services of the republics with the majority of the former union republics except the Baltic states. Besides an inter-parliamentary body of the former union republics has been already formed. Frankly speaking, it does not work rather effectively. As far as the proposals on forming a special committee to control the security bodies are concerned I support them and believe it will come true in the new future.

Q: Over the last period of time different rumors on possibility of another coup are being repeatedly spread, mentioning the probability of participation of senior officials of your Ministry. What is your opinion on this issue?

A: I think it is not necessary to aggravate the situation. It is quite in vogue now to speak on this topic. I am concerned over other problems which I have already mentioned. If we do not manage to stabilize the economic situation then an uncontrolled situation may occur due to the reaction of the people being on the threshold of poverty. It will not be a coup. Nowadays I cannot imagine an ordinary man who would try to organize a coup to take power. The August events of the last year proved this fact. It is simply unreal at present and I can assure that the leadership of the Defense, Security, Interior Ministries have no such goals.

Q: What do you think, is there a danger of return to totalitarian methods given destabilization of inter-ethnic relations?

A: Of course, there exists such a danger. And the present situation forces the president and his supporters to undertake this step. It is very important to observe strict division of three kinds of power—parliamentary, legal, and executive. To this effect I am a little puzzled by confrontation between the parliament and the executive structure which is being deliberately aggravated by several deputies and the members of the Cabinet of Ministers. Over the last period of time Yeltsin has undertaken a number of steps to solve the situation. It goes without saying that everybody must be busy with his own affairs but the legislative power must remain the supreme body of power and nobody and never may deprive the parliament of his authorities. I believe that the presence of this triad in the democratic Russia being formed now will help us to avoid everything you are talking about.

Q: What do you think, is a return to the ideas of unification in the framework of a single ministry of security and internal affairs possible today?

A: I do not think so. You will know that the Russian Supreme Council's Defense and Security Committee was the first to oppose this unification. I believe that concentration of control over crime in the hands of one ministry may lead to serious consequences. By the way no civilized state has any identical example in its history. At present the Security and Internal Ministries are acting quite autonomously and I think it is right.

International Affairs

Defense Minister on Work With Russian Industry

LD1709182592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Morozov today declared Ukraine's readiness to cooperate with the Russian Federation's military industry. At the same time, the general particularly stressed that Ukraine will, in future, be a neutral non-nuclear state, so that there is, and will be, no place for Ukraine in the structures of the Commonwealth's Joint Armed Forces.

Premier Denies Asking Russia's Gaydar for Loans

LD1709222992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] In a special appearance on television last night, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin refuted reports by some mass media that during a recent meeting with Yegor Gaydar he allegedly asked for loans of 100 billion rubles for Ukraine. In actual fact Russian enterprises are 224 billion rubles in debt to Ukrainian ones for supplies, and the Ukrainian enterprises owe Russian enterprises 97 billion rubles. Ukraine did not ask for loans but for the difference in these mutual computations to be paid. As a result, an agreement has been signed on opening offsetting accounts in Ukraine and Russia in which the enterprises will receive loans for reciprocal computations.

Supreme Council Ratifies International Treaties

LD1709194192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] A number of international documents were ratified at today's session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

Ukraine joined the 1978 Vienna Conference on the legal succession of states with regard to treaties. Resolutions on Ukraine joining the Treaty on Antarctica, signed by the former USSR in 1959, were adopted.

Parliament also ratified today, the treaties between Ukraine and France, Poland, and Turkey.

Border Guards To Return From Nakhichevan

OW1709213392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian border troops announced that all Ukrainian officers and ensigns of border troop detachments in the Transcaucasian border district who wish to continue serving on Ukraine's borders will return to Ukraine in the near future. A corresponding agreement was reached between the Ukrainian State Committee on Border Protection and the Russian border troops administration, under whose jurisdiction the Nakhichevan district falls.

Russian Fleet Sailors Ask To Join Naval Forces

LD1709183192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 92

[No video available]

[Text] Reports are continuing to arrive at the personnel section of the organizational group of the Naval Forces of Ukraine from our compatriots and servicemen from the Baltic, Northern, and Pacific Fleets of Russia with a request to transfer them for service to the Ukrainian Navy. Approximately 2,000 men submitted such a request by 16 September.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Considers Labor, Taxes, Debts

AU1709123892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] On 16 September, the sixth session of Ukraine's Supreme Council continued. The bill on the procedure for resolving disputes in labor collectives was adopted at first reading. It was suggested, in particular, that strikes may only be allowed provided they do not affect people's basic interests. Such an approach toward strikes exists all over the world.

It was also decided to reduce the size of value-added tax for individual meat products: boiled sausage, frankfurters, and so on. It will now amount to 10 percent instead of the previous 28.

The Law on Ukraine's State Internal Debt and the resolution on its implementation, as well as some other legislative acts, were adopted at the plenary meeting of the Supreme Council.

The deputies also discussed a list of facilities constituting state property that are subject to privatization in 1992. It was decided to authorize commissions of the Supreme Council to disseminate the relevant proposals and comments upon them and, taking them into account, further elaborate the proposals and submit them again to the deputies for discussion.

Rukh Prepares Referendum on Supreme Council

AU1709142192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, cochairman of People's Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] gave a news conference in Kiev. He said that if on 17 September the Central Electoral Commission registers organizing bodies, a campaign will start on that very day

to collect signatures in favor of holding an all-Ukrainian referendum on the confidence for the present composition of Ukraine's Supreme Council. The referendum will be conducted if, over three months, 3 million signatures are collected.

Vyacheslav Chornovil stated that some representatives of state administrations, particularly in Nikolayev and Poltava oblasts, have shown resistance to the creation of organizing bodies, but today, 34 organizing bodies uniting 4,000 persons have already been created in Ukraine. As reported by RUKHPRESS, such groups already exist in 11 oblasts.

Parties Seek Fokin Resignation, CIS Withdrawal

MK1709122492 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 92 p 2

[NEGA report: "Withdrawal From CIS Demanded in Ukraine"]

[Text] Rallies demanding the resignation of Vitold Fokin's government and Ukraine's withdrawal from the CIS are planned for 20 September in many Ukrainian cities. This has been stated by Vladimir Grinev, chairman of the Lvov branch of the Ukrainian Republican Party. The "roundtable" of representatives of Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka], the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, and 12 other political parties and organizations of the Poltava region has also expressed itself in favor of the dissolution of Fokin's government. They deem it essential to hold a referendum on the issue of early elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

Group Calls for Replacement of Council

AU1809094592 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Sep 92 p 4

[Commentary by Kostyantyn Paryshkura: "'New Ukraine': Plan of Action"]

[Text] On 8 September, leaders of "New Ukraine" [Nova Ukrayina] held a news conference in Kiev during which they spoke about their plans for future actions. V. Filenko, chairman of the association, confirmed "New Ukraine's" course toward the nonviolent and legal replacement of the Supreme Council's present composition by means of collecting signatures and holding a referendum. The "New Ukraine's" leaders named Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] and the KNDS [expansion unknown] as their allies in this cause. This is despite the fact, stated V. Filenko, that CNDS leaders are too loyal to the government. V. Filenko explained the need to replace the present composition of the Supreme Council by the fact that, from among more than 120 deputies of the opposition People's Council, not more than between 40 and 50 have remained in real opposition. The Supreme Council is precisely the structure that is capable of influencing the president and the government.

V. Lanovyy, Ukraine's former vice prime minister, who was present at the news conference, was asked whether he had had a program for economic reform. He answered that the question was rhetorical. As far back as at the beginning of summer, he had submitted a memorandum to the president in which seven or eight principal measures were formulated, measures that our economy urgently needed. On 5 July, as V. Lanovyy said, this memorandum was passed over to O. Yemelyanov.

Then V. Filenko stated that the question on the former vice premier has not yet been removed from the agenda and that it will be discussed at the Supreme Council session.

V. Filenko expressed his attitude toward the draft of Ukraine's new Constitution as follows: First, this draft is unacceptable and, second, it cannot be adopted by the present composition of the Supreme Council.

Statistics Ministry Updates Grain Harvest

LD1709224292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 92

[No video available]

[Text] The Statistics Ministry prepared an express report on the harvesting campaign in Ukraine. It states that the harvesting of grain and pulse crops without maize is nearing completion on peasant farms. To date nearly 36 million tonnes of grain have been threshed from 12 million hectares. The average yield is a little over 30 quintals per hectare. According to forecasts, more than 41 million tonnes of grain, including maize, will be gathered. This volume is perfectly adequate to fully provide our population with bread.

Sociologist Pessimistic About Future

AU1709150292 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Sep 92 p 7

[Article by sociologist S. Lavrychenko: "Before It Will Be Done...."]

[Text] Ukraine is plunging further into the quagmire of economic devastation and social degradation. An absolute majority of the citizens experience this directly for themselves. This is, in particular, attested to by the data of a routine poll conducted by Kiev State University's Center for Sociological Studies. This is how the well-being of Ukrainian families has changed in accordance with the opinions of our respondents (as percentage of the total number of answers):

improved considerably—1.0;

improved somewhat—6.4;

has not changed at all—14.6;

difficult to answer—5.7;

deteriorated somewhat—33.2;

deteriorated considerably—39.1.

Among the first 10 problems bothering them in particular, the respondents mentioned the following (as percentage of the total number of answers):

difficulties with fuel and gasoline—7.9;

difficulties with housing—9.6;

unemployment or threat of unemployment—13.3;

decline of social virtues—18.3;

destruction of the environment—23.8;

degradation of the system of medical services—25.1;

growing weakness of state power—32.9;

wild outburst of crime—35.2;

shortage of foodstuffs and basic commodities—53.5;

steady increase of prices—80.7.

Therefore, one can clearly see a fast division of the public into those who, on the eve of the promised "market," that is to say, in the present "grab-it-if-you-can" reality, have been treated well by fate, and the rest—"proletarians," more specifically those who have failed to make themselves rich (three-quarters of our public). Undoubtedly, such a course of events does not in any way promote the strengthening of social peace and accord in our society.

As we remember, the notorious "perestroyka" that ended in an accelerated collapse began with slogans of social justice. Have we acquired more of this justice since then? This is the main question the answer to which must, quite soon, determine the slope of the trajectory of our advancement toward the market. It seems to me that those politicians who, by force of habit, are not inclined to take into account the characteristic features of such a phenomenon as mass consciousness, the presence in it of stable and deep-seated stereotypes contradicting the modern currents of social thought, and the inertia of "common" peoples' system of values and outlooks are making a serious blunder. At work here are powerful forces of habits and subconscious convictions that can offer great surprises to politicians. For example, three-quarters of those polled assess positively the enrichment of some people today, whereas those who consider it bad constitute less than 10 percent. At the same time, however, more than half the respondents consider it necessary to pursue a policy toward reducing the difference in the citizens' personal incomes.

These moods have been manifested in the answers to the question on where the respondents see the way out of today's social crisis. Well, whereas about 30 percent of the respondents consider capitalism (the market) as salvation, as many people do not agree with this, and the rest find this question difficult to answer. The same applies to the question on privatization. Whereas a total of 30 percent agree that it is necessary, almost 40 percent of the respondents are opposed to it.

Is the orientation toward the economic models of American or Western European type pursued too closely? Perhaps those who call for paying greater attention to the Swedish experience are right, after all? This experience proves quite convincingly that a state policy directed toward leveling the population's incomes is not an obstacle on the road to the creation of an effective economy. Whatever might be the case, we must clearly realize that several years are not sufficient to cover a road that is decades long and leads toward a developed market system, and that the most important thing is to take into account the "terrain" that we are going to cross. Otherwise, the old story of building "a new society" may again be repeated. Incidentally, for some people, words, names, and symbols have become more important than reality and, what is the most important, more important than our people's well-being. Well, gentlemen, should we again call for sacrifice in the name of the future? Then there was no need to make all that fuss.

The situation is further aggravated by the behavior of our "new class," more specifically, our homemade bourgeoisie. Instead of perceiving the entire difficulty of the situation, remembering the bitter experience of the predecessors and, therefore, tackling today's most important task: to determine the nationwide interests and to specify their role in achieving them, instead of seeking nationwide consensus regarding the roads toward social progress, and instead of disseminating and assimilating the moral code of entrepreneurship, they have become engaged in reckless maneuvering.

The wave of social discontent is aimed precisely at them. For example, almost every seventh respondent believes that "the cooperators are making fortunes at our expense."

The following fact acquires particular significance. The number of those people who, when asked about their political preferences and affiliations, named the banned Communist Party of Ukraine was similar to the number of people who named the rest of the political parties and organizations put together. Despite the fact that, in absolute expression, these estimates are quite insignificant and are markedly lower compared to the relevant estimates derived during the times when this party occupied a dominant political situation, still they are not formal and reflect the true state of things. It is for the first time since the August putsch that we encounter such an open and distinct manifestation of procommunist preferences. Apparently, the further we sink into the

crisis and the more people who become impoverished, the stronger will this tendency become.

Afghan Veterans Oppose Serving in Conflict Zones

AU1709142592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine's Union of Afghan Veterans is opposed to the idea of creating Afghan veteran formations within CIS peace-keeping forces in zones of interethnic and other conflicts on the territory of the former USSR.

This idea had been put forward by Russian and Georgian Afghan veterans. Yuriy Zubko, deputy chairman of the union, pointed out that these conflicts must be dealt with by politicians of the states where such hotbeds arise. It is meaningless to consciously send people from other regions to their deaths. We can only help with medicines, stressed Yuriy Zubko.

Moldova

2d Round of 14th Army Talks Opens in Chisinau

Dniester Envoy's Attendance Requested

LD1709200192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau 17 Sep—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said the participation of Dniester region representatives in the second round of talks on the status of the 14th Army and the procedures of its withdrawal, which started in Chisinau yesterday, was "not only desirable, but absolutely necessary." The president stressed today at a meeting with delegations from Russia and Moldova that they would, after all, be faced with "the task of explaining the need for this action to the population of the left bank."

Mircea Snegur called for setting specific dates for the 14th Army's withdrawal during the course of the talks, emphasizing that "nothing threatens the population of the left bank area. It has guarantees in case the political trend in the Republic of Moldova should change."

The talks are to continue today, still behind closed doors. Before the start, Petru Luchinskiy, head of the Moldovan delegation, expressed his view that "one cannot expect the withdrawal of the 14th Army to take place in the near future, because the issue has to be studied very thoroughly."

Further on Withdrawal Timetable Call

OW1709154292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said that the schedule for the removal of the 14th Army should be drawn without delay. This will stabilize the sociopolitical situation in Moldova, he told the participants in the second round of the Russian-Moldovan talks on the status of Russia's 14th Army and on the schedule of its withdrawal.

He noted that the position of the 14th Army commanders "goes against the Moscow agreement on settling the conflict in Trans-Dniester".

Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Colonel-General Boris Gromov told reporters following the talks that he did not approve of the statement made by commander of the 14th Army General Aleksandr Lebed in an interview to the Ostankino TV company September 14. "We have stated on many occasions and we are saying again that military people should handle purely military issues and never get involved in politics," said Gromov.

He refused to comment on the content of the Chisinau talks.

Talks End; Minor Results Noted

OW1709154892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The second round of Russian-Moldovan talks on the status of the 14th Russian Army and on the schedule of its withdrawal from Moldova ended in Chisinau Thursday [17 September].

According to well-informed sources, the talks did not bring any results except the decision to move a pontoon regiment from Bendery to Penza.

The talks will be resumed in a month, but neither the date nor the place has been chosen yet.

Smirnov Halts Movement of Arms

LD1709172492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The second round of Russian-Moldovan talks on the dates and conditions of withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldova has been held in Chisinau. Our correspondent reports that the delegations were headed by Petr Luchinskiy, Moldovan ambassador to Russia, for Chisinau, and Vladimir Plechko, Russian ambassador to Moldova, for Moscow. The delegations include representatives of the two countries' defense and foreign affairs ministries, as well as military experts. As the talks were again held behind closed doors - as they were in August, when the first round was held in Moscow—the press center had nothing to offer journalists. All that is known is that a meeting will take place today between the heads of the delegations and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

The leadership of the Dniester Region Republic responded to the talks in a peculiar way. By order of President Smirnov, special posts have been set up at a military airport near Tiraspol, with the aim of preventing possible removal of the weapons belonging to the 14th Army through the territory of the Dniester region. Accordingly, a ban has also been placed on military transportations by railroad.

14th Army's Commander Comments on Situation

LD1709205492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1915 GMT on 14 September broadcasts a 25-minute program entitled "Look Who Is Here," which includes an interview with General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army in Moldova, by correspondent Natalya Nikonova.

The program opens with shots of Dniester regions, with correspondent Igor Tsvetkov saying: "After meeting with Boris Yeltsin, Mircea Snegur said in an interview that in the view of both presidents the first stage of settling the Dniester conflict was successful. Unfortunately, this took place after the sides of the conflict had been positioned on the opposite banks of the Dniester". He goes on to describe the losses and damage caused by the fighting in the Dniester region.

He continues: "Over the last few months Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, has become one of the most prominent personalities in the Dniester region." Tsvetkov describes briefly the landmarks of Lebed's military career.

The program continues by showing General Lebed sitting in a room. Answering a question from correspondent Natalya Nikonova, Gen. Lebed speaks about military traditions in his family and how his way of life affects his family. He goes on to say that he regards the events in the Dniester region as war, and future developments are unpredictable. He says: "A unique situation has been brought about when politicians could halt the war if they are sensible and realistic and if the results of the referendum held in the Dniester region on setting up a republic and on its statehood are taken into account. The war can be stopped or, on the contrary, it can be stepped up, moreover, a large-scale war in southern Europe can originate from this region. There is a host of mutual territorial claims here." He says this can hardly be substantiated by historical evidence and data.

Nikonova asks: "Major politicians have reached an important agreement now. Snegur and Yeltsin have developed a variant compromise, and it seems that now everything should calm down and your army is being withdrawn. What is your view of the results of such an agreement?"

Lebed answers: "How can I have a viewpoint if I do not know the results of these talks? All I know is that the two presidents have had talks, but I do not know what they have agreed upon. They met. I do not know in what way the much-talked about withdrawal of the Army is going to be carried out. It is not known what position Ukraine will take toward this. What I know for sure is that there is no interrepublican accord on the transportation of troops within the CIS."

He maintains that the procedure for withdrawing troops and providing living conditions for servicemen in other places has not been worked out properly. Asked by Nikonova whether he himself could leave the region, Lebed says that "if the Army stays, its commandant should stay, too. For the time being I do not see any reason for leaving the place until the question is solved. I cannot accept ever being in a situation in the future when I will look in the mirror and spit at it.

Nikonova then asks: "You are being pushed toward such a decision, are you not?"

Lebed replies: "Time will tell."

Over footage of Bendery streets, correspondent Igor Tsvetkov describes the situation in Bendery, saying that peace-keeping forces are in place but dual power remains, represented by the Moldovan police and local militia.

The video returns to Nikonova and Lebed.

Nikonova asks: "Russia is now withdrawing some troops, it is withdrawing the 300th Regiment and leaving the weapons to our.... [changes thought] to those who will shoot at Russians in the Dniester region. What is your attitude to this?"

Lebed responds: "I am very happy about it. This regiment is under my brother's command, and more than 100 combat vehicles are being left to the Moldovan Defense Ministry. I am happy for various reasons. For instance, since the possibility of a recurrence of hostilities is far from eliminated, these combat vehicles can be seen fighting against us. They will have tricolor symbols painted on them. The tricolor is the flag of Antonescu, the flag of the Romanian fascists. My father fought against them at Stalingrad. The hardware of the landing assault troops will be covered with shame—it has never yet known such shame. This hardware is capable—and it was designed for this purpose—of rapidly storming the Dniester in any area. With this hardware, any bridgehead can be taken and bridges set up, that is, combat actions can be developed in any direction. A total of 1,800 (?TUR's) have been handed over; these might be fired on tanks under my command. If similar care was shown about the 14th Army, it would be somehow clear, but this kind of care is somewhat distorted. Following the agreement, a lot of hardware is being transferred to the Moldovan side while my requests have so far been treated unsatisfactorily. Therefore, I am happy about this decision, naturally. However, we will stay here."

Tsvetkov asks: "Is it your inner need or simply the general's stubborness?"

Lebed answers: "Stubborness? What has stubborness to do with it?"

Tsvetkov continues: "Why then do you want to stay to the end?"

Lebed responds: "I would like to know to where and why should we retreat. This former great power has fallen to wretched components, it is being dragged asunder, it is being sold. Tverskaya Street, one of Russia's main streets, has turned into a pitiful imitation of a New York alley. The Army is angry, it is at the end of its tether, and you are speaking about stubbornness. What has stubborness to do with it? Perhaps, one has to find a starting point to regain self-respect as a nation, as people representing a power [derzhava]. What has stubborness to do with it?"

Tsvetkov then asks Lebed if he regards the Army's involvement in the events in Tbilisi, Baku, Vilnius, and

Moscow as such starting points. Lebed disagrees, saying that in these events, the Army carried out functions alien to it, whereas here, in the Dniester region, 92 percent of the population spoke in favor of a republic in a democratic referendum, so therefore these people deserve protection by the Army.

Asked by Nikonova what his reaction would be if he received orders to withdraw his troops, Lebed starts elaborating on the compexity of army structures and complaining about the neglect shown toward the Army by politicians, which has resulted in the Army being demoralized and politicized. Only a well-fed and well-provided army can be expected to carry out orders perfectly, he says. He says, however, that despite all the misery which has befallen the Army, the Army remains one of the healthiest state institutions.

Over stills showing Lebed, correspondent Tsvetkov reads excerpts from Lebed's service references.

The program returns to the interview, and Lebed speaks about the responsibility he feels for the servicemen under his command. He says that he sees his main task in saving every soldier's life. He is indifferent to contrasting opinions which exist in society about him since he believes that his professionalism is the only thing that matters. With regard to rumors alleging that he is striving to become president of the Dniester Republic, Lebed says that he "has not been trained as president. It is not my line. I had a different training and I am quite happy to continue in my profession. I was trained in my profession and have acquired great experience in service, believe me, and I intend to use this experience and the knowledge I have acquired to continue with the work to which, generally speaking, I have dedicated my life."

Asked if he has his own view on ways the conflicts in CIS hot spots could be brought under control, Lebed says that he has such a concept which, however, he would not like to elaborate upon right now because it is quite controversial. In a nutshell, "amorphous positions" should be avoided: One should act promptly and resolutely in these conflicts and this will evoke quick and positive reactions.

In conclusion, Lebed says that he does not need wars to assert himself professionally. He likes to be in the Army and to train young soldiers because a good army is a guarantee of peace.

14th Army Commandant's Office Role Reshaped

LD1709190392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent Gennadiy Varfolomeyev in Tiraspol]

[Text] In accordance with the laws of the Dniester region of the Moldova Republic and the recommendations of the joint inspection commission of the peace-keeping forces, Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester region, issued a decree removing the special situation status from the whole of the Dniester region from 15 September.

The 14th Army military commandant's office, together with the Dniester region militia, have been keeping the situation in the Dniester region under control 24 hours a day for two months. As a result, the criminal scene has undergone a drastic change. In this period, over 1,500 violators of public order have been detained, and 368 motor vehicles have been seized, of which 64 were later returned to their owners. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against 18 detainees.

Although the 14th Army commandant's office, headed by Colonel Mikhail Bergman, is now ceasing its activities in establishing order in the Dniester region, and will now only perform its garrison duties, according to Major General Aleksandr Lebed, the Army commander, the staff of the military commander's office of the Tiraspol garrison has been increased, with a separate commandant's company being attached to it. The reason behind these measures taken by the leadership of Russia's Defense Ministry, aimed at strengthening the Tiraspol commandant's office, is the need to prevent possible crimes related to misappropriation and distribution of weapons.

The decree issued by President Igor Smirnov provides for the creation in the Dniester region of its own commandant's office. Therefore, as from 15 September, two commandant's offices will operate concurrently.

Snegur Receives Leader of IMF Delegation

AU1809105792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0657 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1992—The president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, met on Wednesday, September 16, with the mission of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] led by Abdessatar Uanes. The IMF representative informed the leadership of the republic about the visit paid to Moldova to the end of studying the situation in the country and the possibilities of granting a tangible support with a view to introducing the national currency in the context of respect for international exigencies of banking activities.

In the opinion of Abdessatar Uanes the visit to Moldova will speed up the drafting of the programme of reforms by the government of the republic, stress being laid on the fact that, after the establishment of peace in Moldova real possibilities are created to relaunch the economy. Mr. Uanes handed over a message to the president of the republic from the IMF director.

Tajikistan

Presidential Decree Establishes Defense Ministry

LD1809142592 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Decree issued by Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov in Dushanbe on 18 September]

[Text] With the aim of protecting the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Tajikistan, and based on Resolution Number 387 of the Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, dated 9 September 1991, on measures to define the defense and security (?needs) of the Republic of Tajikistan, I resolve:

1. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan be established within the structure of the Tajikistan Cabinet of Ministers, (?incorporating) the Defense Committee, the Military Commissariat, and the Civil Defense Headquarters of the Republic of Tajikistan.

2. The Defense Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan should propose within a week, to the Cabinet of Ministers, the drafts of regulation, structure, and establishment of the Defense Ministry of Republic of Tajikistan.

3. The Tajikistan Cabinet of Ministers should take necessary measures on financial, material, and technical provisions of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the Republic of Tajikistan

Iskandarov Places Vital Facilities Under Guard

LD1709162892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1356 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By TIA "Khovar" correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 17 Sep—As a result of the sharp deterioration in the situation in Tajikistan, Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the republic, issued an instruction in which the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry and the Committee for National Security have been entrusted today to put vital facilities under guard in order to prevent acts of sabotage. These facilities include the Nurek hydroelectric power station, the Vakhsh Nitrogen fertilizer works, the central depot of the anti-hail service of the republic's Ministry for Protection of the Environment, the Chormagzak, Fakhrabad and Shar-Shar mountain passes, sections of road on the border between Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube oblasts, explosive and ammunition dumps, and a number of other installations.

The instruction contains a request to the commander of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Tajikistan and under Russian jurisdiction, to organize collaboration with the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Committee for National Security of Tajikistan to guard these facilities.

The instruction requires the formation of a group to escort vehicle convoys to transport goods along the Dushanbe-Kofarnikhon-Kulyab route.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 0956 GMT on 18 September in a similar report adds: "Troops are allowed to use arms, 'if the situation at the facilities is destabilized and the personnel and the installations they guard are attacked'...." "General Ashurov has revealed in an interview with INTERFAX that the CIS Division plans to send an auto-convoy with food and fuel to the Kulyab region, southern Tajikistan. The convoy will be escorted by armored vehicles to defend it against looting."]

Commission Fails to Resolve Kurgan-Tyube Strife

OW1709173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1654 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Attempts by the Tajik Parliamentary Commission to resolve the conflict in the Kurgan-Tyube region have not, for the time being, produced any results, according to Davlat Khudonazarov, a member of the commission, who was speaking to INTERFAX. He remarked that in spite of the efforts required, to speak of any kind of concrete progress in resolving the conflict would be premature. Negotiations are constantly being broken off. Khudonazarov said that the Kulyab region's leadership is not taking part in the negotiations, despite a prior agreement.

Khudonazarov described the overall situation in the region as tense. In spite of an armistice declaration, shooting is continuing in some regions causing the deaths of innocent citizens. In Kurgan-Tyube itself, the situation was becoming more stable, according to Khudonazarov. On Thursday [17 September], the first newspapers for two weeks were published in Tajik, Uzbek and Russian. However, there are food shortages in the city and the water supply has been cut off.

Nabiyev Supporters Capture Nurek Power Station

LD1709200892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1940 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Dushanbe September 17 TASS—Well-informed sources in Tajik Ministry of the Interior on Thursday [17 September] confirmed reports to the effect that supporters of Tajik ex-president Rakhman Nabiyev got hold of the Nurek power station. They did not undertake any military actions and gave guarantees they will not inflict

damage on the power station. They also demanded that CIS peace-keeping troops be deployed in the area.

According to earlier reports, Nabiyev supporters gained control over the town of Nurek in a maneuver which "did not involve armed clashes."

Troops Regain Control

LD1809104292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Dushanbe September 18 TASS—At the request of the leadership of Tajikistan, on Thursday [17 September] the Russian troops put under control the Nurek hydro-electric power-station, the mountain pass Chermozak and neighboring areas. It was reported that the request was made by Acting President of Tajikistan, Akbar Iskandarov. Units of 201 Motorized Infantry Division, which is under the jurisdiction of Russia, were brought into areas of the conflict.

According to Division Commander General Mukhriddin Asurov, the situation in areas of dislocation of Russian troops at present is comparatively calm. The armed conflict, which took place on Thursday near the mountain pass Chermozak between the two confronting groupings stationed in the neighborhood of Nurek, is localized.

At the same time it was reported yesterday late at night that there are about 500 Kulyab guardsmen on the territory of the Nurek hydro-electric power-station. This information was confirmed to ITAR-TASS by the Interior Ministry of Tajikistan. The guardsmen guaranteed that they will not do any damage to the power-station if the Commonwealth peace-making forces are immediately brought into the territory of the Kulyab region.

The Nurek hudro-electric power station is part of the power complex on the Vakhsh River in the Tyan-Shan Mountains. Its dam, 300 meters high, holds 10.5 billion cubic meters of water.

It became known on Thursday that U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali decided to send to Tajikistan a fact-finding mission. This decision was taken in reply to the request of the Tajik Government.

Acting Premier on Economy, Harvest, Stability

OW1809023192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 17 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Extremely tense, but not hopeless"—this was how acting prime minister of Tajikistan, Dzhamshed Karimov, described the situation in the republic in an interview with INTERFAX. Stability in the republic, he said, was being undermined by what he called "certain forces" that were bent on continuing the armed conflict and weakening the country.

The internal destabilization and the breakdown in economic ties between the former union republics could, he explained, "affect the republic catastrophically." The production of consumer goods was down to 82% of what it had been last year, and things were no better in agriculture, particularly in the production of cotton, where according to expert forecasts the best that could be hoped for was a raw cotton yield of no more than 60% of the 1991 level.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Last year's cotton harvest amounted to 800,000 [unit of measurement not provided].

In Premier Karimov's opinion the country's economy was functioning largely due to the titanic efforts made by the directors of the enterprises, state farms and collective farms and to the reforms which the government had carried through successfully.

On the question of economic aid from abroad, Acting Premier Karimov pointed out that Tajikistan was "on the threshold of joining the IMF." He laid stress on the fact that joining the IMF was very important for the republic, because it provided an opportunity for the republic to become part of the world currency system, receive credits and gain access to the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Without foreign investment, Acting Premier Karimov believes, the republic's economy is simply doomed. He said that Tajikistan had already been advanced its first credit from the European Communities Commission to the value of 65 mn. [million] ECU [European Currency Unit]. The United States was also offering preferential food credit valued at $10 mn. Agreements had been signed with Iran for a $50 mn. credit. Pakistan intended to invest $50 mn. in the Tajik energy industry. "Foreign countries are ready to work with us," said the acting premier, "but they are discouraged, if not to say put off by the political instability and the continuing armed conflicts."

He admitted the inability of the republic at the present moment to cooperate fully with enterprises in the other CIS countries with the result that billions of rubles of ready made goods had mounted up in Tajikistan which couldn't be sold. The blockade of rail communications caused by the conflict in the Kargan-Tyubinsk Region meant that it was impossible to carry freight into the Kulyabsk Region, which was faced with the very real threat of famine. Karimov believes that the only answer is for all warring parties to sit down immediately and talk. The government has recently stepped up its efforts in this direction, but as he pointed out, it is too early yet to talk about any positive developments.

Acting Premier Karimov denied claims that the republic was facing a power paralysis. He believes that the resignation of President Rakhman Nabiyev has done nothing to change the course of events and has had no serious effect on any of the structures of government power: the duties of the president are invested in the chairman of

the Supreme Soviet, while the Cabinet of Ministers continues to fulfill its functions as before.

On the question of relations between Tajikistan and neighboring Uzbekistan, the acting premier said that recent events in the south of the country, which had resulted in a flood of refugees many of whom were Uzbeks, had "somewhat complicated relations" between the two countries. Nevertheless, after the recent visit of a government delegation led by the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Akbarsho Iskandarov, to Tashkent, where contentious issues between the two republics were discussed, the situation has improved. The governments of the two republics expect shortly to sign a number of important documents which should normalize relations between them, Acting Premier Karimov said.

Foreign Minister Explains Policy Principles

OW1709213092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, V. Terekhov, and others for "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Independent and sovereign Tajikistan will build its foreign-policy concept on a fundamentally new basis," Foreign Minister Khudoyberdy Khaliknazarov told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent. In fact, his republic, he said, is beginning to build its statehood anew; it's learning how to make its first steps on the world scene; learning how to pursue an independent policy in international affairs.

On this road Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry has come to face serious difficulties of economic nature because of the lack of experience and a shortage of professional diplomats. Tajikistan, the foreign minister said, is perhaps the only CIS country having no diplomatic missions beyond the former USSR.

Even though before his resignation President Rakhman Nabiyev signed a decree on opening embassies in Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, China and the USA (the countries which already have their diplomatic missions in Tajikistan), the implementation of the decree has been postponed indefinitely.

According to the foreign minister, a major task faced by his ministry today is to restore the destroyed economic and social ties with Commonwealth members on the principles of trust, neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation.

With reference to relations with Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan K. Khaliknazarov pointed out that they are not built on religious principles, as some people claim in their efforts to convince public opinion. Rapprochement with these countries is a natural and logical process, since Tajikistan is linked with them not only geographically. Centuries-old ethnic, cultural and spiritual ties with those nations should be taken into account.

Tajikistan's activity in the area of foreign policy could have been more successful, if it were not hindered by the complex political and social situation inside the country. Instability and armed conflicts in the south of Tajikistan are an obstacle to the endeavours to establish broad contacts on the international level, said K. Khaliknazarov.

UN Representatives Seek Invitation to Visit

LD1709180992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By TIA "Khovar" correspondent Valeriy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 17 Sep—United Nations representatives who are in Tashkent have asked the leadership of Tajikistan to send them an official invitation to visit the republic. Tajik Foreign Minister Khudoiberdy Kholiknazarov stated that such an invitation has been handed over in Tashkent. It is signed by Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet.

The text of the document says that UN representatives will be given all possible assistance in their work, and that they will be given the opportunity to meet with the leaders of various political parties and movements.

Official Expects Shortfall in Cotton Harvest

OW1709180592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of the state concern "Pakhtay Tojik" ("Tajik Cotton"), Umurzuk Kobilov, maintains that in 1992 Tajikistan will not be able to fulfil the cotton harvesting plan and it will produce "at best 600-700 tonnes of cotton". This quantity, in his opinion, will hardly be enough to fulfill the republic's commitments to textile production enterprises in the Commonwealth countries.

Armenia

President, Russia's Grachev Discuss Troops

LD1709175692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1627 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By Tigran Liloyan, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Yerevan, 17 Sep—Questions concerning the status of Russian troops on the territory of Armenia were discussed at the meeting this evening in Yerevan between Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of Armenia, and Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian minister of defense. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from Aram Abramyan, the Armenian president's deputy press secretary. He said that the participants at the meeting confirmed that the legal basis for the presence of the units and formations of the Russian armed forces in Armenia is provided by the interstate agreement signed recently by Boris Yeltsin and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, and the official accords between the heads of the two states.

[Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 1500 GMT on 17 September adds: "General Fedor Reut, commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, today interrupted an inspection tour of units deployed in western Georgia. From Kutaisi he flew to Yerevan for a meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who will be arriving there."]

Foreign Minister Wants UN Attention for Karabkah

OW1709213292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian flew out to New York Thursday [17 September] to prepare Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit. On September 21 he is expected to address the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

Hovannisian told IF [INTERFAX] shortly before departure that during the UN session the Armenian delegation will urge the world's leading powers to overcome indifference to the Karabakh problem.

Spokesman on Foreign Minister's Istanbul Speech

NC1609173692 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Yerevan, 16 Sep (ARMENPRES)—The Armenian president's press secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, held a news conference during which he said that Azerbaijani President Elchibey is pursuing an adventurist policy, adding that his prestige is directly linked to his successes in Nagorno-Karabakh. [passage omitted]

Shugaryan commented on the postponement of Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian's official visit to Australia, saying that it was not due to the anti-Turkish lapses in his speech in Istanbul but to the fact that he will accompany President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to New York, where the latter will address the UN General Assembly on 19 September.

Referring to Hovannisian's speech in Istanbul, Shugaryan said that some points in that speech contradict our republic's political course.

The press secretary also discussed the situation in the Armenian Civil Aviation Administration, saying the detention of some civil aviation officials is a manifestation of the fight against organized crime. This fight, he added, will continue.

Break in Georgia Traffic Causes Bread Shortage

PM1709094592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "No Response Yet from Turkey to Armenia's Request for Grain"]

[Text] Yerevan—The authorities' assurances that the grain crisis in Armenia will soon be resolved have proved groundless. The waiting lines outside the bread stores are lengthening by the day.

Meanwhile, the bread trucks which arrive from time to time cannot satisfy even half the stores' demand. More and more people in Yerevan are going to the bakery gates in the hope of getting bread virtually straight from the oven.

The present bread panic, which is more acute than ever before, is due to the stoppage of rail communications with Georgia, in whose ports hundreds of freight cars of grain are standing waiting to be unloaded. In an attempt to resolve the problem the Armenian Government has asked Turkey to send the republic 100,000 tonnes of grain, agreeing to repay the debt as soon as rail communications are reopened. However, this is the seventh day without a reply from the Turkish side.

The situation has become particularly difficult in the rural regions of Armenia, where bread is being sold for coupons at a rate of 300 grams per person per day. According to reports from Armenia's Yekhegnadzorskiy Rayon, the populace in desperation broke into the bakery and bought up the bread there and then.

NKR Fighting Update; Air Defense Operational

NC1709192792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has reported that the Nakhichevan's armed formations have recently been trying to foment tension by periodically subjecting the border zone near the town of Yeraskh to

gunfire and artillery shelling. The Azerbaijanis intermittently shelled defensive positions near Yeraskh on the night of 17 September. One Armenian fighter was injured.

The village of Bardzruni in Vaykskiy Rayon came under an hour- long artillery and Grad rocket shelling from Nakhichevan's (?Shadag) base at 2130. The enemy resumed shelling that village this afternoon.

At 1130 today, the situation deteriorated near Gorisskiy Rayon, which borders Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy Rayon. The enemy shelled the border region with heavy and (?long-range) weapons. Armenian forces in Vaykskiy and Gorisskiy returned the fire. There were no casualties on our side as of 1200.

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh: The air defense system of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] is now a reality. The air defense forces of NKR shot down another Azerbaijani military MI-24 helicopter that intruded into Askeranskiy Rayon this evening. It fell in the territory of the rayon. Work is going on to locate the wreckage and ascertain the crew's fate.

A number of settlements in Askeranskiy Rayon were shelled with Grad rockets and long-range weapons from military bases in the Agdamskiy Rayon, which began shelling at noon on 16 September and continued until the night of 17 September. According to preliminary reports, six civilians were killed and 12 were injured. The shelling also caused substantial destruction.

Today tanks shelled Martuni and the village of Ashan. The shelling caused destruction.

Positional battles are continuing in Mardakertskiy Rayon. Contrary to the fabricated reports by Azerbaijani sources, the villages of Chldran and the region around Pogosagomer are under the control of the Armenian freedom fighters.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Opposes CIS Structures

NC1709142792 Yerevan SNARK in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, September 16 (SNARK)—Babken Araktsyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, has expressed today his negative attitude to creating any structures within the CIS. He is of the opinion that it will bring to the unitary state. Araktsyan has said that if Nazarbayev's suggestions are accepted in Bishkek, he will refuse entering the interparliamentarian bodies.

Council Appoints Official to Security Directorate

NC1609175592 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, 16 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Navasard Mnatsakanovich Minasyan has been appointed first deputy head of the State Directorate for National Security by a decision of the Armenian Council of Ministers on 15 September.

New Charge Leads Staff to Embassy in Iran

NC1709193792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry Press Service informed ARMENPRES that the first group of staffers for the Armenian Embassy in Iran will leave for Tehran on 18 September. The group is to be headed by Armenia's Charge d'Affaires Vahan Bayburtyan.

Bayburtyan is a prominent legal expert and a doctor and professor of historical sciences. He has done extensive research on Iranian history, the Armenian community in Iran, and Iran's relations with other states. Until his appointment as charge d'affaires, Bayburtyan was a professor on scientific research at Yerevan's Khachatur Apovyan Pedagogical Institute.

The group also includes the Second Secretaries Ara Babyan and Levon Abrahamyan. Both are legal experts and have long years of working experience abroad.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Comments on Russian Mercenaries

LD1709213792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent M. Madeov in Baku; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has held a news conference in Baku, where it expounded its view of events.

Rahim Gaziyev, head of the military department, called failed attempts by the Armenian expeditionary corps to capture Agdam an act of despair. He gave a thorough analysis of the situation which has taken shape in upper Karabakh on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. On the whole, Gaziyev noted, the summer campaign could be regarded as successful for the national army.

At the same time, the minister voiced concern over repeated cases of participation by soldiers and officers of the Russian Army, recruited by the neighboring republic, in military actions in the mountainous part of Karabakh. Journalists were given an opportunity to talk to a group of servicemen from a special purpose company of the 7th Army, stationed in Armenia. They were captured on 11 September in Kelbadzharskiy rayon in Azerbaijan. But before that they took part in an attack on the village of Serkhamen and a number of other populated areas. According to them, they were paid 5,000 rubles for every military operation, plus 7,000 for every item of armored equipment put out of action.

All the captured men will be handed over to a military tribunal of the republic, charged with illegally crossing the state border and committing murder and terrorist acts on the territory of Azerbaijan.

[Begin Ye. V. Vysotskiy, head of personnel administration, Russian Defense Ministry, recording] We have no information about participation in combat operations by any servicemen in those units and formations that are under the jurisdiction of Russia stationed on the territory of Azerbaijan or Armenia. They could be discharged soldiers who have left the service and served in precisely those subunits to which they are now referring. I am well aware that it is paid work. One has to force a person with money to act against his conscience. I think that that is a serious step, and not everyone will, in general, be able to carry it out, probably—simply exchanging one's conscience for that amount. [end recording]

Situation Forces President to Cancel UN Visit

NC1809141892 Baku TURAN in English
0957 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 18 Sep (TURAN)—Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan informs the President of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey has decided to give up his visit for the United States, scheduled for September 19, where he was to take part in the UN assembly's work.

Azeri Foreign Minister Tofik Gasimov will fly to the United States instead of the president.

Sources from the Presidential Board said to the TURAN correspondent, the president has taken such a decision due to the complicated situation arisen in the Azeri frontier regions and through sharply intensified military activity of the Armenian Expeditionary Corps near the town of Agdam.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Meets Yeltsin Envoy

NC1709190892 Baku Radio Baku Network
in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov received Ambassador Vladimir (Kachimirov), Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy, today. The guest briefed Kamberov on the meeting the representatives of 11 countries held within the CSCE framework in Rome. He also explained the Russian Government's stand on the Karabakh problem.

Kamberov said: Azerbaijan favors the peaceful settlement of the dispute. Regardless of the existing problems, we maintain the hope that a peaceful solution will be found to resolve the dispute. We also highly assess Russia's mediation effort on the question of the Minsk conference.

Vakhid Akhundov, head of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet International Relations Department, participated in the meeting.

Armenian Forces Reportedly Near Agdam Outskirts

NC1809135692 Baku TURAN in English
1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 18 Sep (TURAN)—The town of Agdam, big industrial and cultural center of Karabakh, has become a top item of the military reports of late.

Armenian Army, after capturing a number of villages neighbouring the town, has come close to the Agdam's outskirts.

Fierce combats are reported for several days to be under way on the approaches to the town. Both sides are suffering serious casualties.

Press-centre of the Azeri Defense Ministry reports that Azeri units are parrying an impact of the enemy, concentrated big amount of manpower and arms in this direction.

Situation in Combat Areas Said Peaceful

NC1709185592 Baku Radio Baku Network
in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

Compared with the past few days, the situation in the combat areas was relatively peaceful last night. Exchanges of fire broke out periodically in Agdamskiy, Kedabekskiy, and Kubatlinskiy Rayons. Clashes are currently taking place around Chldran in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayon.

The defense positions in the (Germe-Chatag) locality in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's Babekskiy Rayon was fired on with all types of military vehicles and heavy arms ats midnight last night.

The situation in Kazakahskiy, Tauzskiy, Akstafa, Zangelanskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons was relatively peaceful last night.

Defense Minister Supports President's Actions

MK1709121192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Explanation From Azerbaijani Defense Ministry"]

[Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No. 170 for 4 September maintains that the political situation in Azerbaijan is being destabilized by the army, the head of which, war minister Gaziyev, quit the People's Front in the fall of last year and is operating completely independently of the president and the government. The Information Analysis Center of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry states that the Defense Ministry is subordinated to the lawfully elected president and operates for the purpose of protecting the Azerbaijani people and state. Minister Gaziyev comments as follows on the NEZAVISIMAYA

GAZETA report: "President Elchibey is not acting against the people, a guarantee of which is his many years of fighting for the freedom and independence of Azerbaijan. I was appointed to my current post on the proposal of the 'Democratic Azerbaijan' bloc, the basis of which comprises the People's Front. In 1991 I did indeed leave the leadership of the People's Front of Azerbaijan, but not the People's Front itself, from whose ranks I have no intention of departing."

Nakhichevan's Aliyev Denies Resignation Rumors

NC1609195792 Baku AZERINFORM in Azeri 1618 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Nakhichevan, 15 Sep (REAL-AZERINFORM)—In a speech on local television, Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, said: "I have no intention to resign from my post."

Aliyev, who was elected to the local parliament and who heads the organ, believes it would be a treachery against the electorate if he were to resign now, when the autonomous republic is under a full blockade because of Armenia and when everything is being done to alleviate the consequences of the blockade.

Aliyev also refuted claims that he is out of favor with the new Azerbaijani leadership. In commenting on this issue, he noted that all measures being taken to stabilize the sociopolitical situation are coordinated with the Azerbaijani Government and personally with President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Aliyev also announced that the Azerbaijani president will visit Nakhichevan soon.

The autonomous republic's Supreme Assembly will convene tomorrow and discuss the situation in the region, the report on the result of Aliyev's official visit to Iran, government's report on preparations for the winter, the creation of a National Council of the Supreme Assembly, the organization of border defenses, and other matters.

Representatives of various political parties and public organizations have been invited to take part in the sessions.

Nakhichevan Appoints New Interior Minister

NC1709170092 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1250 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 17.09.92 (ASSA-IRADA)—The new minister of internal affairs of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] has been appointed today by the resolution of Supreme Mejlis of NAR. The new minister, Asker Alekper Oglu Alekperov has been lately the first under-secretary at this ministry. The question of his apointment on this important post took the session a great deal of time. The authorities of the Azerbaijan Ministry for Internal Affairs insisted on the other nominee, but the deputies decided that the Ministry must be governed by the man from the 'inside', who knows his job and the situation in the Autonomous Republic.

Government Resolution Raises Cotton Prices

OW1809140292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The purchasing prices on cotton have risen three times in Azerbaijan. According to the government's resolution, 1 ton of first-grade raw cotton will be sold at 20,000 roubles for a ton.

The Azeri newspapers report that Russia has concluded a contract for purchasing 37,600 tons of fiber cotton from Azerbaijan and that the price it will have to pay for a ton will go up 2-3 times from the initial 64,800 roubles for a ton.

This year Azerbaijan is expected to harvest more than 500,000 tons of raw cotton.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Wants Commission Meeting in Sukhumi

OW1809105692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0955 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of Georgia's State Council Eduard Shevardnadze has voiced displeasure with the fact that the control and inspection commission works in Sochi rather than in Sukhumi. In his opinion, that keeps it away from the centre of events in Abkhazia.

Mr. Shevardnadze also disclosed at yesterday's meeting with Abkhaz intellectuals in Sukhumi that he'd repeatedly offered the Abkhaz Parliament's leader Vladislav Ardzinba to meet to discuss the problems that had piled up. However, in the Georgian leader's words, Mr. Ardzinba has been avoiding meetings. Nor had he accepted Mr. Shevardnadze's offer to meet in Sukhumi on Thursday.

On the same day, Mr. Shevardnadze met in Sukhumi the chairman of the committee for stabilizing the situation in the autonomous republic Givi Lominadze and representatives of the Georgian faction in the Abkhaz Parliament.

Mr. Shevardnadze returned to Tbilisi in the evening on Thursday to meet a UN mission on Friday. As part of its tour of Abkhazia, the mission held a three-hour meeting behind closed doors with Mr. Ardzinba in Gudauti on Thursday.

Transcaucasus Commander To Meet Russia's Grachev

LD1709223192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] General Fedor Reut, commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, today interrupted an inspection tour of units deployed in western Georgia. From Kutaisi he flew to Yerevan for a meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who will be arriving there.

Abkhaz Deputies Appeal to Russian Parliament

LD1809120992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep—Five deputies of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet have appealed to the Russian Parliament to include in the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which opens on Tuesday [21 September], the question of the situation in Abkhazia. Among those who signed the document are Sergey Bagapsh, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, and Albert Topolyan, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia .

"In the conditions where the Russian Government undertakes the role of guarantor of stability in Georgia and Abkhazia, and citizens of Russia find themselves drawn into the Abkhaz conflict, the reaction of the Russian Supreme Soviet as a legislative body, expressed in a resolution similar to the documents that were adopted at the time on other "hot spots" of the former union, is extremely important," the deputies' appeal says.

Russian Air Defense Unit To Turn Over Materiel

OW1709172692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1653 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Combat materiel belonging to a Russian air defence regiment stationed in Georgia will be handed over to the Tbilisi authorities. This was agreed at a meeting on Wednesday [16 September] between First Deputy Georgian State Council Chairman Jaba Ioseliani with the regiment's commanders.

The two sides also agreed on assistance with the training of Georgian recruits.

Commander of the air defence regiment Yevgeniy Ivolgin remarked that the craetion of a unified air defence system in Georgia was in the interests of both Georgia and the Russian republic which was also concerned with reliable protection for the southern territories.

Minister Sets Deadline for Fighters' Withdrawal

LD1709171192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Georgian side insists categorically that the fighters of the Confederation of Highland People of the Caucasus be withdrawn from the area of the Abkhazian conflict within 10 days. This statement was made by Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani speaking on Georgian television. He warned that if this demand is not met then the Georgian side reserves the right to use force.

Peacekeepers Report Situation Calm in S. Ossetia

LD1709164792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 17 TASS—The situation on the entire South Ossetian territory is report to be calm. According to the Supreme Soviet of the republic and the Interior Ministry of North Ossetia, during the last twenty-four hours observation posts of joint peacekeeping forces did not register skirmishes on hot spots. The Georgian and Ossetian sides are observing conditions of the ceasefire agreement.

However, according to military reconnaissance reports, a concentration of scattered militant groups and armed bandits formations was noticed on the border with the Gori district, which are surmised to have penetrated into the Tskhinvali zone from Abkhazia. The same sources reported that the armed groups are striving to destabilise the situation in the region and provocate armed clashes between Ossetians and Georgians.

Assessing the overall situation in the Tskhinvali zone on the request of the ITAR-TASS correspondent, a representative of the joint peacekeeping command, Major-General Stanislav Suanov, said that the army is ensuring order and stability here. There is full understanding between subdivisions of Russian, Georgian and Ossetian battalions. At the moment they have the common task of maintaining the prevailing fragile peace in South Ossetia, help the republic's leadership fulfill the second stage of finding a solution to the Ossetian-Georgian conflict, which envisages the restoration of all economic structures and administrative bodies of power in rural areas, an organized return of 100 thousand refugees to their ancestral villages and to find a stage-by-stage solution to determine the political status of South Ossetia.

Stanislav Suanov emphasised that the joint peacekeeping forces of Russia, Georgia and Ossetia will remain in the Tskhinvali zone as long as it is necessary for the complete stabilization of the situation in the region. A programme for the one thousand five hundred strong contingent's stay for the whole winter has already been worked out. The local population is quite friendly with peacemaking troops, who are helping Ossetian and Georgian villages normalise their day-to-day life, guard roads and ensure safe passage to caravans of cars.

The Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia has approved the complex five-year programme to revive the region. It has been worked out by economists and experts of Russia, Georgia and North Ossetia. About 40 billion rubles will be required to achieve these aims. Russia and Georgia have taken upon themselves to pay the cost of rebuilding economic structures and residential housing. There are plans to make large investments in the economy of South Ossetia. Joint coordination groups of economic, social and other affairs have been created which will work in the region without replacing local power bodies.

Refugees are returning by the Transcaucasian highway to South Ossetia escorted by units of peacekeeping forces and armoured vehicles. As of today over 26 thousand persons have returned to their ancestral villages from Vladikavkaz and other settlements of North Ossetia. There are reports that Ossetian refugees are also returning to interior areas of Georgia.

Helicopters Reportedly Bomb Tkvarcheli, Villages

LD1709214992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent S. Shatunov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Despite the fact that the Russian Defense Ministry has issued an order to air defense facilities to shoot down all helicopters attacking peaceful targets in the conflict zone, the mining town of Tkvarcheli [Abkhazia], starting at 1900 today, was subjected to a helicopter bombardment. Three Georgian State Council helicopters bombed the town and adjacent villages for 30 minutes. No precise figures about the number of casualties has yet been released. The following report was transmitted to us by our correspondent Ruslan Khashig, who is now there:

[Khashig] It should be recalled that the town of Tkvarcheli has been blockaded for a month. It is a mining town, where up to 30 percent of the inhabitants are Russians. They have repeatedly appealed to their mining colleagues in Russia for help, but so far they have not received any. The town is now without communications, medical supplies, and bread.

[Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Television First Program Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 17 September adds: "In an interview today with the NEGA agency, Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani said the Georgian Defense Ministry has irrefutable proof that, after firing on the Kometa hydrofoil, the helicopter flew off toward Sochi—in other words, toward Russia. Tengiz Kitovani described as a downright lie reports that Georgian helicopters are bombing areas in Abkhazia that are densely populated by Russian speakers. Clearly, the Georgian minister does not find the Russian arguments convincing."]

Military Commander Denies Air Raids on Abkhazia

LD1809081792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0759 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS non-staff correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi September 18 TASS—Deputy Commander of the Trans-Caucasian Military District, Lieutenant-General Sufeyan Beppayev, denied today reports in some news media to the effect that helicopters of the Georgian Army "made air strikes at objects of the Russian troops," stationed in Abkhazia.

"Apparently, it is beneficial for someone to spread such fantasies," the general said.

Estonia

Prime Minister Receives Russian Ambassador

OW1709225192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1821 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi received Thursday [17 September] Russia's Ambassador to Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov. According to the Estonian government press service, during the meeting the two sides noted their satisfaction at the development of relations between Russia and the Baltics. Vahi expressed hope that his government will conclude new economic agreements with Russia. The Russian ambassador stressed in turn that all problems of bilateral relations can be solved.

Fuel Arrives From Russia Following Payment

LD1809062592 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Last weekend brought much joy to the Estonian Fuel Company. Fuel agreements concluded so far and the continued talks were beginning to bear fruit. Namely, fuel destined for us has been dispatched from Ryazan. According to the agreement, Estonia will receive 9,000 tonnes of fuel from there. The first tanks with fuel crossed the border at Narva at the beginning of the week. As Riho Sild, the firm's director general explained to the people in the RAHVA HAAL [Voice of the People] we are talking about the first consignment. The agreement, however, was signed for 60,000 tonnes. According to assurances from the Russian plant, the dispatch of fuel oil to us will continue.

As is known, the purchases of fuel were previously hampered by the lack of money to be paid in advance. Last week the Estonian Energy Co. paid a major advance of 285 million rubles. Estonian Fuel is making an effort so that we would have winter fuel in storage tanks by 1 November at least in same quantities as last year—230,000 tonnes.

Central Bank on Chaos in Financial Markets

OW1709190292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In its everyday commentary the Bank of Estonia declared that the chaos on the financial markets of Europe does not influence Estonia as it is firmly connected with the German mark.

Nevertheless the bank warned that competitiveness of the Estonian goods is being decreased on markets of those countries whose currency has devaluated. Finland is among them, and it is the largest trade partner of Estonia.

The flow of foreign currency to Estonia is growing as private and juridical persons try to get rid of "unstable" currencies.

The Estonian commercial banks questioned by "BF" [BALTFAX] also declared that the panic on the currency markets of Europe will not influence them.

Ruutel: Resurrection of 1920 Border Difficult

OW1709225092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1821 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel said in an interview with BALTFAX in St. Petersburg that "today it is difficult to talk about a return to the 1920 borders" (between Russia and Estonia). "As I see it, the best solution to the disputed Pechora region could be the establishment of a state border along ethnic lines." Ruutel, who is one of the candidates running for President of the republic in the up-coming elections, noted that he was expressing his personal viewpoint. The head of the Estonian Parliament remarked that he is in favor of the autonomy of the small Finno-Ugric peoples in the Ivan-Gorod region and on the eastern bank of the Narva. "This way," he said, "these people who have been subjected to deportation before, would have some sort of place on earth where they could feel at home."

Defense Initiative Group Called 'Extremist'

OW1709212892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1649 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Haapsalu-based Estonian National Center on Defense Initiative is "an extremist group financed from abroad, which includes nearly 150 people". This was stated at a press conference given by the leaders of the Estonian Defense Forces and the "Kaitseliit" [Defense Union] volunteer defense organization Thursday [17 September].

The commander of the Estonian Defense Forces' Headquarters, Colonel Ants Laaneots claims that there are people with a criminal record among the founders of the Defensive Initiative Center. "None of the members of the group has professional military education and can exercise military command", he said.

The National Center on Defense Initiative was set up in the fall of 1990 by a group of former "Kaitseliit" members. It is led by the former head of "Kaitseliit" Kalle Eller. The Center has not been registered formally. On September 15 the Center on Defense Initiative announced the creation of the Single Command Board of the National Defense Forces and stated its readiness to

assume command over the Defense Forces and "Kaitseliit". On September 18 [date as received] the Center announced that it is subordinated only to the government in exile.

According to Laaneots, the question of further existence of the Center should be decided by the government. Unless there is an order to liquidate the Center, in the opinion of Laaneots, the use of force against this "weapon of certain political forces" is possible.

Latvia

Russian Envoy Concerned Over Troop Talks

OW1709171492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1645 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] However difficult Russia's economic situation could be, it would not tolerate the language of ultimatums," [no opening quotation marks as received] said head of the Russian state delegation at the talks with Latvia, Ambassador Sergey Zotov, in an exclusive interview for BALTFAX.

In his words, it most directly relates to Latvia which "obtained independence from the hands of Russian democracy and whose economic success will hinge on its economic relations with Russia for many years to come".

The Russian ambassador expressed concern over the recent resolution by the Latvian parliament regarding the issue of the Russian troop withdrawal from its territory. The Latvian government resolution requires that the republic's government resort to the language of ultimatums at the talks with Russia.

In the opinion of Ambassador Zotov, the authors of this resolution, apparently, seek to block the bilateral talks which are due to be held September 22-23 in Riga, leading them to the blind alley, and then accusing the Russian delegation of its recalcitrant stance and artificially over-dramatizing the problem of the troop withdrawal at the international level, including the UN.

The Russian delegation is coming to these talks with "preparedness to do everything possible for finding mutually acceptable solutions, showing maximum understanding, forbearance and restraint," Mr. Zotov said. After so many significant concessions have been made as regards the issue of the troop withdrawal, the Russian side has every reason to expect the Latvian side to cover its own half of the way, he noted. If the talks do not succeed, the responsibility for the stalemate at the talks will be vested with those who still have illusions that Russia could be spoken to from the positions of ultimatums, Mr. Zotov noted.

In the words of the Russian diplomat, "the initiative by the Russian government at the meeting August 6 of the Baltic and Russian foreign ministers in Moscow provides an entirely new platform for working out an agreement for the troop withdrawal". On August 6, the Russian side proposed to radically reduce the terms for the troop withdrawal and complete this process in 1994 on the basis of a complex solution of all the issues, presenting interest for the parties concerned.

The Russian ambassador also had to note with regret that opportunities for capitalizing on these highly favorable prerequisites are gradually dwindling due to the 'adverse atmosphere in the countries' bilateral relations which is played up by the Latvian radical nationalistic forces". [no opening quotation mark as received]

The Russian side, the diplomat emphasized, also regards as "unfriendly gestures" the attempts undertaken by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to bring to the agenda of the current session of the UN General Assembly the issue of the Russian troop withdrawal rather than try to find a constructive solution to this issue in the process of the countries' bilateral talks.

The intent of this "maneuver", in the opinion of Mr. Zotov, is to divert the attention of the international community from "flagrant and multiple cases of human rights violations in Latvia and Estonia, which should have long become a subject of concern and discussions at the level of international agencies, including the UN".

Military Cooperation Accord Signed With Poland

OW1609224292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1812 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Polish Defense Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz and Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis signed in Riga today an agreement on cooperation in the military sphere between the Latvian and Polish Defense Ministries.

At a press conference on the occasion, Onyszkiewicz noted that the document would promote security in Europe. So far Poland has signed similar agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and France. It is also expected to sign an agreement with Ukraine. Onyszkiewicz expressed hope that Poland's cooperation with the Baltics will develop as successfully as with Hungary or Czechoslovakia.

Godmanis on Broadening Cooperation With Taiwan

OW1809123492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0951 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis told BF [BALTFAX] that a Latvian consulate-general will be opened in Taiwan. A governmental delegation led by Ivars Godmanis returned to Latvia on Thursday night, following the completion of its visit to Taiwan.

Godmanis said that Latvia had no plans to enhance the political level of relations with Taiwan. At the same time, Latvia might "represent the economic interests of Taiwan in Europe". He said that remoteness and other "specific circumstances" complicated Taiwan's entry of the European markets. So Latvia might play the role of a springboard and become a place where the Taiwan capital and goods will be accumulated.

Godmanis said that the delegation's visit produced a bilateral agreement on the protection of investments and an agreement on Taiwan's investments to the Latvian economy. He also noted that the Taiwan authorities expressed interest in importing Latvian timber and cement.

4 Parties Call For Government's Resignation

OW1709224992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1821 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Four Latvian political parties demanded the immediate resignation of Ivars Godmanis' government on Thursday [17 September], stating their readinees to create a government of "national consent" until elections to the Sejm (parliament). The statement was signed by the leader of the Conservative Party of Free Citizens Valdis Steins, leader of the Party for Rebirth Juris Vidins, head of the Liberal Party Janis Danoss and head of the Liberal Democratic Party Yuriy Nikelayev. Godmanis' cabinet has been accused of causing the economic catastrophy, selling off the state [as received] and the drop in morality.

The document notes that a new government should reverse the deepening economic crisis, end corrruption and take responsibility for managing the state until elections to the Sejm.

Secretary of the Latvian Conservative Party Karlis Leiskalns told BALTFAX that the party had not empowered its leader Steins to sign the statement.

Union of Communists Establishes Operations

OW1809122992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0949 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A union of communists has been set up in Latvia, Igor Lopatin, the former leader of the International Front of Latvia's Working People and a founder of the new organization, announced during a press conference in Riga September 17.

He said that being the "ideological successor of the Communist Party of Latvia" the new union will campaign against the restoration of capitalism, using constitutional methods. The declaration of this new organization says that the initiative to unite the former union republics into a federative union of equal member-states will be advanced in Latvia soon.

Lopatin said that the Latvian Communist Union has more than 37,000 supporters. Ten per cent of them have never been members of the Soviet or Latvian communist parties. This union will cooperate and hold consultations with the communist unions of Russia and other CIS states. Its target groups are the working class, scientific and technical personnel, and students, irrespective of their nationality.

The Latvian Communist Union will join the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Lithuania

Russian Troops Preparing Withdrawal

OW1809122292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0950 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian commanders are getting ready to withdraw their troops from Lithuania in earnest, said the Lithuanian government's representative in charge of the Soviet troops' removal Stasys Knezis. He told BF [BALTFAX] that since the end of August, the Lithuanian National Security Ministry has been receiving applications from the Russian garrisons for permits to move equipment and other property out of Lithuania. He said that some of the garrisons have already sent their trucks with equipment back to Russia.

The 107th motorized infantry division located in the so-called Northern Town in Vilnius is getting ready for withdrawal, too. The first column of trucks has been given permission to leave Lithuania. Before the end of the year, about 1,500 soldiers and officers are expected to leave the Northern Town.

Stasys Knezis said that smooth withdrawal is being hampered by the absence of a political agreement between Vilnius and Moscow on the compensation for the damage inflicted on Lithuania by the Soviet army, which is to define which military equipment should remain in Lithuania. Meanwhile Lithuania is trying not give Russia any pretext for accusing it of hampering the withdrawal, stemming from the consideration that before the conclusion of an agreement on compensation the Russian commanders will not have enough time to remove much of the military equipment.

Knezis said that since the beginning of the year the number of Russian military personnel has gone down by 12,000 men. There are about 22,500 Russian servicemen in Lithuania who will have to leave that country by August 31, 1993.

Norwegian Daily Notes Problems of Armed Forces

PM1609171092 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 12 Sep 92 p 21

[Report by Elisabeth Holte: "Lithuania's Iron Wolves"]

[Text] Vilnius—"Yes, we do have weapons to defend ourselves with," said the brigade's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ceslovas Jezerskas, a veteran parachutist from the Soviet Army, a powerfully built man in battle dress and pilot's glasses. Immediately afterwards, as we stood watching the judo training in the former Soviet military premises in Vilnius, he swallowed his pride and told the truth. "But they are pretty old weapons, and we do not have all sorts of things—transportation, uniforms, communications equipment."

The brigade was given a proud name this summer. The Iron Wolf was the name of the best military unit in Lithuania before the war, but for the time being, at least the new wolf has few teeth and those that it has are not very sharp. Even though the boys are no longer training to become superpower soldiers, they are undoubtedly a little thin on the ground on the premises of this elite brigade, which will eventually number 5,000 men. Today it has reached around 3,000 men, divided between 10 locations around the country.

"In general terms we have no weapons at all," say people back at the city's defense ministry—which is called the National Defense Ministry, in line with the self-defense concept behind the forces that are being built up. They have "some Kalashnikovs," some portable antitank missiles plus ten transport vehicles—trucks with four-wheel drive with machine guns mounted on the back, we were told. The Lithuanians have no helicopters at all, and only a few aircraft dating from World War II for parachute training.

Border controls are an important part of the job, on land and sea and in the air, and despite the fact that the old Soviet forces will not budge from the border with Poland, border controls on land are going relatively well. In the air however, the Lithuanians are unable to do anything. For the time being, at least, they have only one boat to patrol the 112 km sea border and to take responsibility for control of the economic zone. They are leasing it.

So here what is needed is machine guns and ordinary rifles, artillery pieces and antitank weapons, armored personnel carriers, communications equipment, and equipment to maintain surveillance over airspace. However, the Lithuanians do not have the money, and a single tank costs between $500,000 and $2 million, was the dejected comment from the defense ministry, where people know how empty the coffers are. At present, work is going on to formulate the new so-called national security concept which must be ready for when parliament assembles after the elections at the end of next month. Consideration will then be given to what sort of equipment should be invested in first.

So the Lithuanians are eager to cooperate with the other two Baltic countries and also with NATO. The three Baltic chiefs of staff visited NATO in July, but it is clear that the Iron Wolf boys cannot expect any help in the form of arms or equipment from NATO as an organization. Lithuania must try to get such help from individual member nations. However, so far there has been little or nothing, apart from material for uniforms and the like.

Nevertheless, there is a lively trade in arms in Lithuania. Everyone knows that Russian officers and common soldiers are selling their and their units' arms to Lithuanian civilians. "However, regardless of how badly we need arms, we do not buy arms that have been stolen from Soviet military units. We can satisfy our need for arms elsewhere, in both the East and the West—and we get better quality at a lower price," said Major Sarunas Vasiliauskas, a close aide to the defense minister.

In the Soviet era, the school-like military barracks on Kapsu Street here in the Naujininkai district, not far from Vilnius airport, was the assembly point for new recruits bound for Siberia or the Caucasus. There are civil defense installations under the exercise yard, said Captain Pranas Kasteckas, a slight, dark man from Kaunas who in his battle dress, appears to be trained to a very high level. He is the commander of the 300-man Vilnius battalion, one of the units in the Iron Wolf brigade. In the Soviet era, Kasteckas too was a parachutist, before he studied at the Academy of Agriculture and later learned judo and karate. When the new Lithuanian army was about to be set up last year he was ready.

However, in general, the physical condition of the new recruits who are drafted for a year's military service—which will be the foundation for Lithuania's new defenses—is poor. So the new boys who are hard at it out in the exercise yard or inside in the gym are among the 50 percent who come up to scratch to some degree. For of the 6,000 boys drafted this year, only 3,000 were accepted. A few avoided the draft, while the rest were simply not up to standard.

However, things have happened quickly. As yet, no more than a year has passed since the attempted coup in Moscow when the Balts were one day taking a totally black view of their chances of winning their freedom and then suddenly independent the next—even though the Soviet troops could not be moved.

"In 1940 they needed only four days to get their troops into Lithuania, so they do not need more than a month—two at maximum—to get out now, if they really want to," the men in the camp said, going on to discuss amongst themselves whether there really are 34,000 soldiers in the country or fewer than that figure. How many men are stationed in Kaunas, in Klaipeda on the coast, or at Panevezys in the center of the country? What sort of equipment do they have? However, everyone is aware that the withdrawal business is far from simple. It has been a real war of nerves, and it could become more than that before all Soviet troops and installations are gone.

There have been months and months of heated words and tense episodes on both sides. However, at least no one has been injured in the latter.

Despite the problems with the old Soviet army, contacts with the new Russian army have continued to improve. "We have made progress toward a good system of cooperation and have good contacts with the Russian Baltic Fleet," Lieutenant Colonel Jezerskas said. He was even invited to attend the raising of the Russian flag at the naval base in Kaliningrad last year.

One problem in the Lithuania of today is that no one trusts anyone else. It is typical that there are sixteen different security forces. President Landsbergis has his own security team of 200 men at the parliament, other bodies have other security forces, and everything is politicized and full of distrust, and the elections in October are hardly likely to solve a single problem.

The lines of command are definitely much clearer in the exercise yard of the Vilnius battalion. When Lieutenant Colonel Jezerskas steps briskly across the yard with Captain Kasteckas behind him the boys gasp for breath and and stand to attention. Almost.

Official Discusses Russia's Return of KGB Files

OW1709212992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1646 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian side fears that former KGB agents in Lithuania will be persecuted, that is why it does not hasten to return KGB archives to Lithuania, Deputy Chairman of the Lithuanian government commission on the return of the KGB archives, Chairman of the "Sajudis" Movement's Council Juozas Tumialis told BF [BALTFAX].

Along with the chairman of the commission, Lithunaian deputy Vidmantas Ziemelis he returned to Vilnius from Moscow where on Wednesday [16 September] he met with representatives of the similar Russian commission.

According to Tumialis, the two sides agreed that by the next meeting October 2 the Lithuanian side will prepare a draft protocol guaranteeing the limited access to these documents, in the first place, for journalists.

Last summer Lithuania received 15,000 archive documents of the former KGB.

Lennart Meri on Presidency, Baltic Cooperation

AU1709130192 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1519 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 79]

[Text] 15 September 1992—The Ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs and the present Ambassador of Estonia to Finland Lennart Meri said of the restoration of the institution of presidency in Estonia is opening an alternative: if a democratic president is elected, he can do a lot for the benefit of democracy and parliamentary republic, but if a representative of the Soviet nomenklatura becomes a president, he will try to restore the former nomenklatura back to power and push the matters back.

Asked about the forms and prospects of the cooperation of the three Baltic States, Mr. Lennart Meri referred to the excellent example of the Benelux countries which derive considerable benefit from their close cooperation without losing their own national identity. This variant suits the Baltic countries too for they are generally regarded as an integral geographical and political unit. If we maintain unity in our foreign and economic policy, we shall gain advantage from our geographical situation which is more advantageous than, for example, that of Sweden. Our territories constitute a bridge between the West and the East which will have to be crossed by many. From the historical experience we know that villages and little towns located at crossing points with bridges subsequently became big towns and capitals, like Rome, for instance. We enjoy great possibilities of which we have to take advantage.

Regarding the relations of the Baltic States with Russia, Mr. Lennart Meri said that Russia must be helped in its endeavour to strengthen and secure democracy as its core is small and weak so far, yet it consists of highly intellectual people. There are two Russias: that of Chekhov and Dostoyevskiy which I love, and that of the former totalitarian regime which I hate.

Labor Party Nominates Candidates for Seimas

AU1709130792 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1519 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 79]

[Text] 15 September 1992—The Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (LDLP) has confirmed the list of 72 candidates to the Sejm which is headed by the LDLP Chairman, the former First Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party (1988-91) Algirdas Brazauskas. The LDLP electoral list of candidates includes representatives of the political groupings opposed to Sajudis such as Lithuanian Farmers' Union and Lithuanian Future Forum. The LDLP will also nominate its candidates in all the 71 one-mandate electoral districts. The LDLP coalition hopes to win about 20 per cent of the total number of mandates, however the opinion poll conducted by Vilnius University Sociology laboratory has indicated that only 7 per cent of the eligible voters would back up the LDLP, 12.5 per cent would vote for Sajudis, 7.3 per cent for the Centre Movement organized mainly by liberal-minded intellectuals and businessmen. The number of supporters of the Social Democratic Party has greatly shrunk.

The official electoral campaign will start next week.